

#01/2016



Comparative Research
Programme on Poverty



A world without poverty

A programme of the International Social Science Council hosted by the University of Bergen, Norway.

The fundamental mission of CROP is to work in collaboration with knowledge networks, institutions and scholars to build independent, alternative and critical knowledge and education on poverty, and to help shape policies for preventing and eradicating poverty.



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FOREWORD

*By CROP Scientific Director
Alberto Cimadamore*

One of the salient features of this semester has been the organisation of a PhD level course on "Poverty, climate change and water in the context of SDGs" within the framework of the 2016 edition of the Bergen Summer Research School.

A relevant reason to highlight this event is CROP's close connection with the Bergen Summer Research School (BSRS) from its inception. The first edition of the BSRS, in 2008, was dedicated to the theme of global poverty, with the intention of placing poverty high on the global challenge agenda for both advanced and less developed economies. When the BSRS was first conceived, it was foreseen that global poverty and its interaction with other global challenges would be a recurring theme in all future editions of the summer school. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, approved by United Nations General Assembly in 2015, backs that thought by recognising that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development.

In this context, it was timely for CROP, in collaboration with local and international partners, to offer a PhD course linking poverty and climate change to water and other specific issues of the new development agenda. Also relevant was the decision to use sustainability science as an integrated scientific framework that is particularly apt to address all the Sustainable Development Goals

by co-producing knowledge across scientific borders and national boundaries, with the involvement of the research users. This approach has been supported by CROP during the past three years through activities organised to advance this field both locally (UiB) and internationally (see: <http://sustainabilityscience.b.uib.no/>). The course can therefore be seen as a decisive step in this direction.

Another salient feature has been the substantial progress towards the creation of an African programme on poverty and sustainable development made by CROP, the College of Humanities of the University of Kwazulu-Natal (UKZN) and the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA). The three partners met in Durban, South Africa in March, and agreed on the terms for a Memorandum of Understanding and the basis for the establishment of an ambitious regional programme to promote high quality research and education in these key areas. This collaboration is expected to contribute significantly to the academic integration of poverty and sustainable development research in Africa and bring on board non-state actors and institutions. It also specifically favours the participation of young female researchers.

These events, together with other events and news contained in this newsletter represent firm steps towards the advancement of CROP's strategic priorities and plans.

EVENTS



CROP partners with CODESRIA and College of Humanities, University of KwaZulu-Natal

The College of Humanities at the University of KwaZulu-Natal in South Africa hosted a two-day workshop in Durban on 1 and 2 March 2016 in order to facilitate the formation of an international collaboration partnership on capacity building and poverty reduction.

The workshop allowed participants the opportunity to brainstorm on the best approach for consolidating an Africa-wide epistemic community of poverty and sustainable development researchers. The programme discussed during the meeting aims to strengthen poverty and sustainable development research and provide academic support to poverty alleviation programmes in Africa, as well as promote critical debate globally. In order to create a vibrant network of African scholars and young researchers with

a strong policy impact, the participants have identified several joint initiatives to be developed towards achieving this goal, including virtual courses, summer schools, the creation of a virtual reading room, publications, as well as other dissemination and networking activities.

Opening the workshop, the DVC of the College of Humanities Cheryl Potgieter underlined the college's commitment to addressing challenges of poverty from a transdisciplinary approach. Director of CROP, Alberto Cimadamore, explained how this regional initiative could link up with existing CROP networks, thus promoting a global impact of the regional initiative. Furthermore, CODESRIA's Deputy Executive Secretary, Sozinho Francisco Matsinhe, stated that his organisation was committed to strengthening high quality research on sustainable development at a regional level.

The event has resulted in the parties signing a Memorandum of Understanding for the establishment of the partnership, as well as plans for further meetings and an academic workshop in 2017.

See also: [UKZN online](#)

Urban Inequities and Children - Conference at The New School in April



On 28 and 29 April, Equity for Children, in partnership with the Center for New York City Affairs, both at the New School in New York, hosted a conference with the support of CROP, the Bernard van Leer Foundation, Fundación Corona, The New School's Global Urban Futures project, the Inter-American Development Bank, and the Milano School of International Affairs, Management, and Urban Policy.

The conference addressed key challenges in identifying urban childhood inequities from birth to five years; including how to gather, measure and translate evidence about this issue into action; and how children's views can be included in the design of cities to promote equity for all inhabitants.

The two-day event featured an open forum on Day 1 with presenters and audience from practitioner agencies, research institutions, foundations and NGOs. On Day 2, a smaller closed session discussed ways to address child

inequities through practical, current projects. CROP Scientific Director, Alberto D. Cimadamore, made one of the presentations; *Child poverty, equity and sustainability in the 21st century*. Emerging from this workshop was a series of recommendations aimed at achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in an urban context but having children's rights and wellbeing as a central preoccupation.

The participants agreed on the need to reframe the discussions so that children are considered stakeholders in the United Nations 2030 [*Agenda for Sustainable Development*](#) when addressing key challenges affecting children and other vulnerable members of society.

Read more on [*Equity for Children*](#) and the full workshop video can also be found [here](#)

Workshop on Child Poverty and Social Protection in Abuja, Nigeria

Together with ECOWAS, UNICEF, the ILO and Equity for Children, CROP organised a three-day workshop on Child Poverty and Social Protection in Abuja, Nigeria. The workshop was hosted by ECOWAS, the Economic Council of Western African States from 23 to 25 May 2016.

Over the course of the event, 20 scientific papers, selected through an open call for papers, were presented and debated. The workshop was attended by 70 noted regional and global experts and academics who participated actively in the discussions.

The opening panel on Monday 23 June was made up of representatives from the organisers UNICEF, ILO, ECOWAS and CROP, in addition to Nigerian authorities and the Norwegian ambassador to Nigeria. They all emphasised the importance and urgency of addressing the region's challenges, including those affecting child poverty and wellbeing. "Child poverty is not only about monetary poverty, but about actual deprivations children are experiencing," noted UNICEF Regional Advisor on Social Policy Gustave Nebie, "Children have a right to education, to healthcare, to information, to nutrition, to housing, to clean water and to adequate sanitation. We must ensure our children are free of crippling deprivations today – and enable them to grow into the leaders we need for the future."

Since the publication of a UNICEF global study on childhood poverty in 2003, there has been an expansion of

policies aimed at addressing the multiple factors that feed into the problem in Sub-Saharan Africa. Nevertheless, in most countries, inequalities and social exclusion have led to the persistence of high levels of child poverty.

Finishing up the workshop, the organisers issued a communique, urging West African leaders to eradicate child poverty; "The participants stand resolute on our position that Child Poverty should be eradicated and Social Protection be provided to all children specifically in West and Central Africa". The group of experts also highlighted the need to monitor child poverty with separate measurements along geographic, gender and socio-economic lines.

Among the 17 points of the communique, we can find the recommendations that:

- ...social protection policies be based on the Social Protection Floor framework, which has been estimated to be affordable for all countries, even in low income ones;
- ...social Protection be based on principles of non-discrimination and universality
- ...development partners consider their role and commitments vis-à-vis contributing to the well-being of the populations in poorer countries as well as their duty and obligation in terms of realizing the rights of children in these countries

The organisers appointed an editorial committee to work on the results of the event that will be published in the CROP International Series on Poverty Studies.

The full communique can be read [here](#).

The full programme of the event can be read [here](#).



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© Photo: EADI

EADI Directors' Meeting 2016 in London

On 6 June the annual EADI Directors' Meeting was held at King's College International Development Institute (IDI). It was organised in conjunction with the IDI Annual Conference 2016, which started the same afternoon and continued throughout the day on 7 June.

Scientific Director Alberto Cimadamore represented CROP at the Directors' Meeting, which started out with an interesting presentation of the current status of the new "EADI Vision Paper on Development Studies". The other two panels of the meeting were on the notion of innovation and what it means in the development context, and on EU development policy in view of the Sustainable Development Goals.

For CROP, a member of EADI since 2014, it is important to use the membership actively, to be a

constructive participant in ongoing discussions, as well as to seek new partnerships for future collaborations. The dialogue regarding the presentation of the new Vision Paper at the EADI 2017 General Conference to be held in Bergen, Norway, is of particular importance as it will include a revised formulation of development studies that takes into account global challenges and perspectives from the South.

King's College's International Development Institute's 2016 conference was co-organised with EADI and started directly after the Directors' meeting on 6 June. This year's conference was titled "Dilemmas of Contemporary Capitalism: Political Representation and Economic Transformation in the Emerging Economies" and featured a combination of keynotes and panels - many of them of great relevance to CROP's own thematic focus. Both Scientific Director Alberto Cimadamore and Administrative Coordinator Charlotte Lillefjære-Tertnæs participated at this conference.

CROP course at the Bergen Summer Research School 2016

In June 2016, CROP, together with local and international partners, organised one of the parallel PhD level courses that made up this year's Bergen Summer Research School (BSRS).

Water, Climate and Society was the overarching theme for the summer school, and from 13-24 June 2016, some of the top international experts on water gathered in Bergen to create a multidisciplinary venue for exploring water as a global challenge.

The title of the parallel course organised by CROP and the Bjerknnes Centre for Climate Research was Poverty, climate change and water in the context of SDGs. It included

research and educational modules exploring the theoretical and empirical links of some of the biggest challenges of our time; poverty, climate change, and sustainable development.

CROP's Scientific Director Alberto D. Cimadamore, and Professor at the Geophysical Institute/Bjerknes Centre Noel Keenlyside were the course leaders, while considerable contributions were also made by Ronaldo Munch (Dublin City University) and Honor Fagan (National University of Ireland). Thirteen PhD students from Africa, Asia, Latin America and Europe attended the course. Through presentations by an interdisciplinary team of professors from Bergen and other European universities, and by actively engaging in the course discussions, this international

group of young scholars explored how sustainability science could be used when dealing with global challenges and how this knowledge could be used for the design and development of inter and transdisciplinary research.

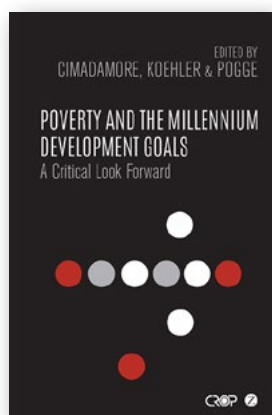


© Photo: CROP

PUBLICATIONS

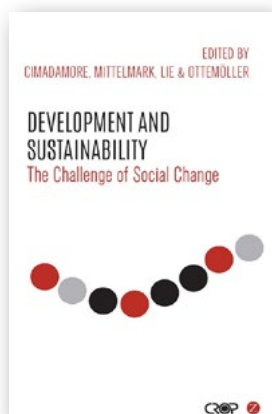
CROP books published in 2016

During the first 6 months of 2016, three books were published in the CROP International Studies in Poverty Research series:



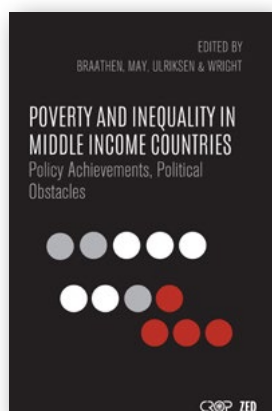
Poverty and the Millennium Development Goals: A Critical Look Forward

Edited by **Alberto D. Cimadamore, Gabriele Kohler** and **Thomas Pogge**, this book was first presented during the climate summit in Paris in December 2015, but was first published in print in February 2016. This volume brings together leading experts to provide critique of the prevailing development agenda. Examining the MDG efforts and results, it exposes the measurements that have lead official sources to routinely underestimate the scale of world poverty and hunger.



Development and Sustainability: The Challenge of Social Change

Edited by **Alberto D. Cimadamore, Maurice Mittelmark, Gro Th. Lie** and **Fungisai Ottemöller**, this book was published in March 2016 and includes some of the articles coming out of the workshop “Development and Sustainability Science: The Challenge of Transdisciplinary Knowledge for Social Change” held in Bergen in May 2013. It links the disciplines of development studies and environmental/sustainability sciences and argues for a new, transdisciplinary way of approaching these two highly inter-connected fields, acknowledging that the necessary connections have thus far been widely neglected.

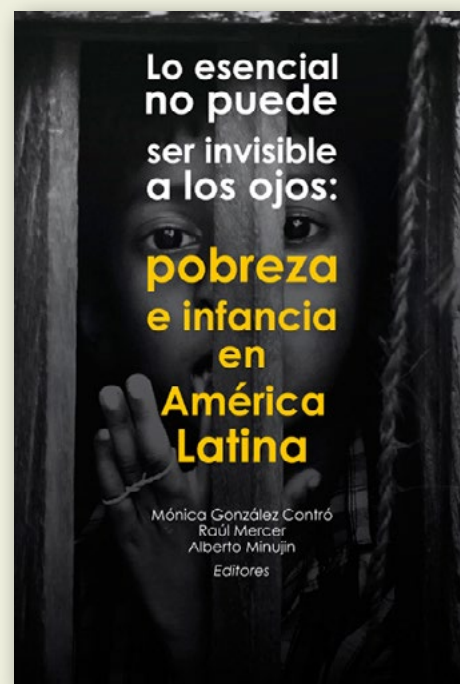


Poverty and Inequality in Middle-Income Countries: Policy Achievements, Political Obstacles

Edited by **Einar Braathen, Julian May, Gemma Wright** and **Marianne Ulriksen**, this book was published in April 2016. It investigates how the new reality of a growing poor population in middle-income countries is inducing us to (re)think anti-poverty strategies and policies. Resulting from a workshop in Cape Town in November 2012, this book, with its contributions spanning Latin America, Africa and Asia, assesses poverty and inequality on a global, national and local scale.

In addition to this, one book was also published by UNAM Press, Mexico:

Lo esencial no puede ser invisible a los ojos: Pobreza e Infancia en América Latina



Edited by **Alberto Minujin, Mónica González Contró** and **Raúl Mercer**, this book was published in Spanish in May 2016. It is the result of a workshop organised in Mexico in January 2014. An English version will be published in 2017.

The central purpose of the book is to emphasise the relevance of the debate on poverty in Latin America, particularly with regard to childhood and adolescence, within current global discussions about justice, freedom, citizenship, identity, participation and peace.

Forthcoming CROP Publications in 2016

One more book in CROP's International Studies in Poverty Research series is scheduled to be published by Zed Books in 2016:

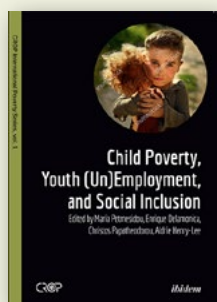
Peasant Poverty and Persistence

Edited by **Julio Boltvinik** and **Susan Archer Mann**, this book will provide a much needed critical perspective and corrective approach to debates about global rural poverty, interweaving contributions from various disciplines.

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In addition to this, two books are scheduled for the series CROP International Poverty Studies, to be published by Ibidem Verlag in Germany in the first semester of 2017:

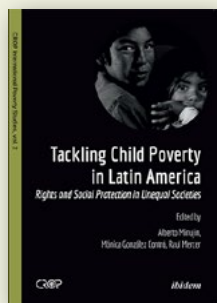
Child Poverty, Youth (Un)Employment and Social Inclusion



Edited by **Maria Petmesidou**, **Enrique Delamonica**, **Aldrie Henry-Lee** and **Christos Papatheodorou**, this book comes out of the

workshop with the same name, held in Athens, Greece in 2014. By critically unravelling the long-term consequences of growing up poor, the close linkages between multiple deprivations and their effects on labour market entry and future career, this book seeks to enrich the existing literature in the field.

Child Poverty in Latin America



Alberto Minujin, **Mónica González Contró** and **Raúl Mercer**

The book, which was published in Spanish in May 2016, will be released in English during the first half of 2017.

New CROP Poverty Briefs, Spring 2016

The following Poverty Briefs were published between January and June 2016

THE GREAT GLOBAL POVERTY DEBATE IS SOMETHING MISSING?

By Neera Chandhoke (Jawaharlal Nehru University, India)

Poverty is a key concept that nudges sensibilities, and inspires academics, policy makers and civil society activists, as it is the prime signifier of inequality. To be poor is to be denied the opportunity to participate in social, economic, and cultural transactions from a plane of equality. Chandhoke argues that we might be able to deal with this multi-faceted phenomena if we conceive of the right 'not to be poor' as an integral part of the generic right to equality or the principle of the equal moral worth of persons.



MEGA-EVENTS AND URBAN POVERTY LEGACY PROJECTS IN RIO DE JANEIRO

By Margit Ystanes (University of Bergen, Norway)

Ystanes writes that if sporting mega-events are to play a constructive role in poverty and inequality reduction, the priorities of organising bodies and host cities must be radically reconfigured. Urban and economic development must become a genuine priority of the events' organising bodies in Rio de Janeiro (2016) as well as in future host cities and nations.



CLIMATE CHANGE, CHILDREN AND POVERTY: ENGAGING CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN POLICY DEBATE AND ACTION

By Beatrice Mauger, Alberto Minujin and Samantha Cocco-Klein (Equity for Children)

Children and young people, particularly those living in poverty, are among the most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Therefore, as outlined in the Convention of the Rights of the Child, they must be empowered and supported to take part in the debate on adaptation planning and action. Including the voice and needs of children at all levels of decision-making will help create a more sustainable, equitable and resilient society.



CROP welcomes submissions to the CROP Poverty Brief series, contact us for further details on how to submit proposals.

<http://www.crop.org/Publications/BriefsSeries/default.aspx>

NEWS FROM CROP

Video Project: "Visualising Poverty Research"

As reported in previous newsletters, the *Visualising Poverty Research* video project was launched by CROP in September 2014 and seeks to disseminate poverty research to a wider audience using video interviews published on CROP's YouTube channel (www.youtube.com/user/CROPSecretariat).

Scholars in CROP's network are invited to apply their own research experience to answer standard questions related to poverty.

By 15 June 2016, 33 interviews had been conducted with researchers from all over the world. These videos are available on YouTube, together with a general video presenting the project. The CROP YouTube channel has now been online for 21 months and the playlist "*Visualising Poverty Research*" has produced the following statistics:



- A total number of 3709 views
- It has been accessed from 64 different countries around the world during the course of 2016. Norway, US, and South Africa alone account for about 60% of the visits.
- Nine interviews had more than 100 viewings each, while 17 other videos had 50 or more viewings

In addition to this project, CROP also publishes other videos, including presentations of the recent CROP

books, increasing the total viewings of the CROP YouTube channel.

We are happy with the project results so far, considering the genre of videos that we are producing. We believe that this is an efficient way of disseminating knowledge with a potential to reach a wider audience than our written publications. We will continue to include interviews with more members of our network and will endeavour to make the channel known to an increasing audience through the interplay with other social media.

CROP's increased social media presence



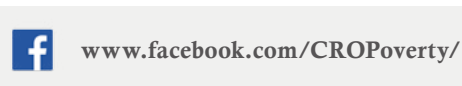
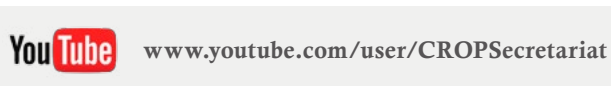
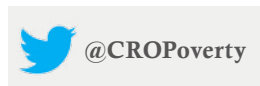
One of the objectives of CROP is to *Increase the knowledge and utilisation of critical interdisciplinary and comparative research on the nature, extent, depth, distribution, trends, causes and effects of poverty*. Working towards this goal, CROP needs a diversified selection of communication channels in order to reach different audiences. CROP's primary academic output has long been its books and Poverty Briefs, and they will remain

so in the future too. However, in a media reality that is growing ever more "crowded", it is vital to use new channels for communicating, not only the messages themselves, but also the news that the other "products" are available.

Social media offers such channels. This is the main reason why CROP has increased its social media presence over the last year or two. The YouTube channel was set up in September 2014, the Twitter account in October 2015, and most recently the Facebook account in April 2016. Having student interns at the Secretariat has been instrumental in setting up these new communication channels, not only because the students provide CROP with extra sets of hands, but also because these young students belong to a generation whose relationship with social media allows them to see and embrace new opportunities.

The numbers of followers/viewers/readers/friends of these social media channels are still quite modest, but they are steadily increasing, securing a wider reach for CROP's messages.

Follow us





Laure Disson



Antonia Ley



Ana Jagodic

Erasmus+ student interns at the CROP Secretariat

In October 2015, the CROP Secretariat welcomed its first Erasmus+ student intern. Antonia Ley, from the University of Augsburg, Germany, stayed at the Secretariat until the end of February 2016. In February 2016, partially overlapping with Antonia, CROP received the next two student interns; Ana Jagodic, a master student from the University of Ljubljana, Slovenia, and Laure Disson, dual degree BA student at Sorbonne University and Sciences Po

Paris, France. Both of them stayed at the CROP Secretariat until the start of June 2016 as part of the work placement scheme of the European Erasmus+ exchange programme.

During their stay at the Secretariat, the students provided invaluable assistance and input to the permanent staff, while themselves obtaining international work experience in the field of research dissemination and administration. They also learned about the poverty research being undertaken by CROP members worldwide.

The next two students will be arriving at the Secretariat in August.

Erasmus+ staff mobility visit to the Global Development Institute in Manchester, UK

CROP Higher Executive Officer Maria Sollohub received an Erasmus+ Staff Mobility Training grant to visit the Global Development Institute (GDI - www.gdi.manchester.ac.uk/) at the University of Manchester from 23-26 May 2016. The Global Development Institute was founded earlier this year as the result of a merger between the former Institute for Development Policy and Management and the Brooks World Poverty Institute. It is the largest dedicated development research and teaching institute in Europe and is committed to addressing global poverty and inequality. The Director of the Institute, Professor David Hulme, is a member of CROP's Scientific Committee.

The Global Development Institute is a much larger unit than CROP, with in-house researchers and its own postgraduate teaching programme. However, it provides many of the same services as CROP in terms of communication and dissemination of research results, hosting of academic events, guest researchers etc. It was therefore extremely beneficial to spend time at GDI to learn and exchange knowledge and experience.

As part of the visit, Maria had meetings with GDI staff members involved in research programme management, humanities research support, academic library services, research and digital communications. The activities of GDI's Effective States and Inclusive Development (ESID) Research Centre (www.effective-states.org/) were discovered to be particularly relevant for CROP, with many similar administrative tasks and issues. Maria had many fruitful and mutually beneficial discussions with ESID's administrative staff members.



Maria Sollohub and David Hulme

In memory of SUSAN MANN



The CROP network is deeply saddened by the news of the loss of our respected colleague Susan Archer Mann from the University of New Orleans. We extend our heartfelt condolences to her family, friends and the colleagues who

worked with her in the preparation of the next book to be published in the CROP International Studies in Poverty Research series, "Peasant Poverty and Persistence in the 21st Century - Theories, Debates, Realities and Policies".

CALENDAR

Selected CROP Events in 2016/2017

30 August-2 September

PANEL "Child Poverty and Welfare: Comparative Views", as part of the 3rd NorLARNet conference - Norwegian Latin America Research Network, BERGEN, NORWAY. [More](#)

23-25 September

WORKSHOP "Welfare States, Labor rights and Basic income in Latin America", co-organised with Catholic University of Salvador, SALVADOR-BAHIA, BRAZIL. [More](#)

23-26 October

ISSC General Assembly and Thematic Conference, OSLO, NORWAY. Crop is a co-organiser of the **thematic seminar** "On the Move – Global Migrations, Challenges and Responses" on 26 October. [More](#)

16-18 November

WORKSHOP "Social Inclusion and Poverty Eradication", co-organised with Harvard University, CAMBRIDGE, US.

12-14 June 2017

WORKSHOP "Social Policy, Inequality, and Poverty in post-Socialist Societies", ST. PETERSBURG, RUSSIA. [More](#)

All dates are subject to confirmation

