

“Child Poverty, Public Policy and Democracy” International Seminar

Organized by Equity for Children/ Equidad para la Infancia, CROP, FLACSO, IIU-UNAM. Support: IFE, DDHH DF
Mexico DF, February 19–21, 2014

CALL FOR PAPERS

Introduction

Poverty and inequality are multidimensional phenomena which reproduce themselves because of the structural conditions that create them. Both are reflected in deprivations and exclusions that affect daily life, the potential for development and the exercise of economic, social, civil, cultural and political human rights. Child poverty and inequality are significant not only because they negatively impact the present, but because they also affect the future of individuals, societies and generations to come.

Since the start of the decade, there have been a growing number of studies about multidimensional child poverty, both at the global (Gordon et al, 2003; Minujin and Shandy, 2012; Boyden and Bourdillon, 2012) and the regional levels (CEPAL-UNICEF, 2010). The studies show that a huge number of children around the world live with hunger, poverty and exclusion. More than 80 million children in Latin America are poor (UNICEF – CEPAL, 2010). In the region, the advances reported in terms of the reduction of poverty and inequality are significant, yet modest (child poverty is estimated to have declined 10 percentage points between 2000 and 2010). Some of those advances have taken place in the context of social and economic policy change. This is true for many countries throughout the region as well as for other countries as a result of the global economic crisis. Rigorous and critical analysis can combine to revise public policies to reduce the current inequalities, promote social inclusion and guarantee a good standard of living for all people.

Call for Papers

Papers to be submitted for this seminar should address one or several of the following suggested questions, issues or topics:

- How is child poverty produced and reproduced in Latin America and the Caribbean? How do stereotypes and social representations of child poverty develop?
- How are intra-urban inequalities produced and reproduced in increasingly urbanized regions? What is the impact of inequality and poverty on the development, quality of life and implementation of the rights of children?
- What policies have proven to be effective, or “best practices”, in the eradication of child poverty and inequality in a comparative experience? How are empirical and theoretical evidence that explain current levels of child poverty and inequality interpreted in contemporary representative democracies? What are the implications and ideological positions underlying the empirical evidence that supports the current diagnosis? In what way do politics, children’s participation and citizenship play important roles in democracies, leading to enhanced child rights and reduced inequalities?
- To what extent do national and international institutional legal frameworks such as CDN, CEDAW and ODM provide an effective response to the issues that affect children and teenagers? What concrete results are seen in terms of designing or financing policies to eliminate child poverty?

The Seminar:

The seminar’s central theme is to eliminate child poverty and increase equity in the context of democracy and social rights. We believe that childhood, participation and citizenship constitute the central agency of democracy and the highest aspirations for establishing equal rights and equity permanently.

Inequality is a key point for the development of the post-2015 Millennium Goals project of the United Nations. This seminar is posited as an opportunity to participate in the global debate on the new frameworks for action on “The World We Want 2015” (<http://www.worldwewant2015.org/>).

The goals of the seminar are threefold:

- To evaluate critically and comparatively the current knowledge and public policy that impact the reduction, prevention and/or eradication of child poverty and inequality;
- To distribute the contributions in English (CROP-Zed Book, London) and Spanish (FLACSO, Mexico) after a thorough process of peer review
- To consolidate the efforts of the “Work Group on Child Poverty and Welfare”, jointly developed by CROP and Equity for Children/ Equidad para la Infancia.

The event’s Academic Committee will choose a maximum of 18 participants from across a variety of academic disciplines. The call is open to researchers around the world. Preference will be given to applicants from Latin America and the Caribbean. Chosen participants will participate actively in lectures and discussions of all papers throughout the workshop.

Participants are responsible for their own travel expenses and medical insurance. Event support will cover room and board expenses during the days of the event. A limited number of travel subsidies are available based on relevance, quality and originality of submitted abstracts. For co-authored papers, one author only may apply for a grant.

DEADLINE FOR THE SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACTS: Monday, October 7, 2013

The abstract must not exceed 500 words (one page) and must include: the title of the lecture proposed, the presentation of the subject, the central argument, the research question and/or hypothesis and the main bibliography. In addition, a CV no longer than one page must be submitted clearly indicating the name, title, nationality and contact information as well as a list of recent publications.

The abstract and the CV must be submitted by email to the following two addresses: crop@uib.no and contacto@equidadparalainfancia.org. Any submission exceeding two pages will not be considered. The Academic Committee will notify accepted participants of their selection and about guidelines and format of the final paper, which must be submitted by **January 6, 2014**.