#02/2016



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.

Second semester 2016

Mobilizing critical research for preventing and eradicating poverty

CROP Secretariat

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FOREWORD

By CROP Scientific Director Alberto Cimadamore

The second half of 2016 saw the introduction of three key initiatives that will help to consolidate and expand the CROP network. The attainment of a NOK 2 million grant to implement an ambitious programme on poverty and sustainable development in Africa; the publication of the first book in a new CROP series with Ibidem Press; and the launch of a working paper series on global challenges, are all relevant benchmarks in relation to CROP's strategic plan for 2015-2020.

The programme on poverty and sustainable development is based on an existing partnership between CROP, UKZN and CODESRIA and aims to strengthen research and educational cooperation through joint activities and a mutual exchange of staff and students. In the long term, it is hoped to consolidate a regional epistemic community in the field of sustainable development and poverty reduction in a continent that is home to half the world's extreme poor. The joint initiative will offer courses with a state-of-the-art, research-led curriculum, both on-line and onsite. A virtual reading room with free and open access will facilitate access to the reading materials and will secure the legacy of the project.

The new book series with Ibiden Press adds a new outlet for CROP to publish peer-reviewed works produced within our network. It also guarantees worldwide distribution through Columbia University Press. The first book is the result of an international workshop in Greece in 2014, and will be followed by others. The working paper series (WPS) on global challenges is a co-operative effort between CROP and UiB Global and was conceived as a vehicle for scholars in our global network to promptly disseminate their current research. As both CROP and UiB Global are involved in activities all over the world, we have decided to create a space for the voices of the South and the North to interact and express their epistemologies and perspectives. The first paper to be published addresses the global issues of inequality and poverty. It identifies some of the "elephants" in the room and suggests that unless inequality is substantially reduced the world will risk missing the target of ending extreme poverty by 2030.

Finally, on behalf of the CROP Secretariat, I would like to wish our readers all the best for 2017!

EVENTS

Child Poverty and Welfare: comparative views - NorLARNet **Conference 2016, Bergen**

On 31 August 2016, CROP organised a panel entitled "Child Poverty and Welfare: Comparative Views" at the Norwegian-Latin America Research Network's (NorLARNet) Annual Conference in Bergen. The theme of the conference was "Latin America Research for a Troubled World".

The panel was chaired by CROP's Scientific Director Alberto Cimadamore. Additional experts, including Helga Bjørnøy Urke (PhD student at the Department of Health Promotion and Development (HEMIL) at the University of Bergen) and Alberto Minujin (Founder of Equity for Children and Professor at The New School, New York), were invited to present their latest research. Minujin also presented the recently published book, "Lo Esencial No Puede Ser Invisible A Los Ojos: Pobreza E Infacia En América Latina". The book is a result of a previous CROP workshop and was edited by Minujin, Mónica González Contró and Raúl Mercer. Sonia Alvarez (Professor at the National University of Salta, UNSa) also participated in the panel and provided further comments on the book.



Presentation for the Ibero-American Network of Organizations against Discrimination

The Ibero-American Network of Organizations against Discrimination (Red Iberoamericana de Organismos y Organizaciones contra la Discriminación / RIOOD) invited CROP's Director to participate in its IV Extraordinary Meeting and in the international conference on «Discrimination, Equal Opportunity and Development». These events took place in Buenos Aires from 28-31 August 2016 with the participation of international specialists and government and NGO representatives. (Watch video presentation)

During the international conference, participants paid special attention to the multiple interactions between poverty and discrimination, as well as states' responsibilities to achieve SDG targets #



The panel discussion covered multiple topics, including conditions for children in Latin America, the childcare system in Colombia, children's poverty in urbanised areas, and the conditions required to break the vicious circle that hinders the development of efficient social welfare structures. Comparative perspectives were shared and alternative strategies identified that could help build more equal societies for children. Link to event

- 5.1: End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere;
- 10.3: Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome;
- 16.b: Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development.

CROP's presentation raised a critical view of the international development agenda during the past decades, the trend to underestimate the scale of world poverty and hunger, and the role of science in the assessment of policy impact as a way to extract lessons for the post-2015 development agenda (SDGs). An adequate understanding of this phenomenon and of the structural and institutional conditions that reproduce poverty at national and global levels is considered a pre-requisite for a consistent and realistic strategy against poverty and discrimination in the Ibero-American context.

Against this background, the importance of discourses in the social construction of poverty and discrimination were examined, as well as the transformative role of public policy to address these social problems and achieve the above-mentioned SDG targets.

RIOOD is an inter-institutional network created to eliminate discrimination in both the public and private spheres. It is made up of 39 government agencies, international organizations and NGOs located in 18 countries (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, México, Nicaragua, Panamá, Paraguay, Peru, Puerto Rico, Portugal & Spain).



Workshop on Welfare States, Labour Rights and Basic Income in Latin America

In partnership with the Catholic University of Salvador (UCSAL), CROP organised a three-day workshop on Welfare States, Labour Rights and Basic Income in Latin America. The workshop was hosted by UCSAL and took place in Salvador de Bahia, Brazil from 21-23 September 2016.

Eighteen papers selected through an open call were presented and discussed at this event. CROP's workshop model was applied to examine the papers in depth, before selecting the most relevant ones to be published in book form during 2017.

The workshop was divided into four sessions and dealt with the broad subject of social assistance through specific programmes such as Conditional Cash Transfer programs (CCT) and Universal Child and Family Allowances, as well as Basic Income. One of these programmes, CCT, is widely considered a key social intervention, which in recent years has reached 21 countries and benefited more



than 132 million people at a modest cost of only 0.39% of the regional GDP. Comparative case studies, as well as descriptive, analytical and exploratory research on the various programmes, were considered in order to estimate the potential of such initiatives in reducing poverty and promoting social justice. Moreover, the effects of the programmes on society at large and on the labour markets in particular were assessed, and incentives and sociopolitical dynamics generated as a result of these programmes were discussed. This collective learning experience will feed the revision of the papers for publication.

Overall, participants were in general agreement that the process over the last decade that has resulted in an emerging formalisation of labour markets and increase in minimum wages in some Latin American countries may be coming to an end. An opinion shared by most experts and academics present at the workshop was that social programmes implemented by governments were indeed alleviating poverty and increasing the consumption capacity of the worst off. Nevertheless, most of them also agreed that structural poverty and income inequality continued to be determining features of Latin American society. Social assistance programmes are often considered as adequate instruments to reduce poverty and prevent its intergenerational reproduction; however, governments tend to overestimate their actual opportunities to deal with structural poverty and ensure the quality of the assistance and services they provide.

As a complement to the workshop, a public event entitled "*Latin America: Social Reform at a Crossroad*" was held at UCSAL. Both the workshop and the public event were attended by regional and global experts who participated actively in the discussions and engaged in a debate with members of UCSAL's academic community and the general public. <u>More information</u>



«New» poverty in Middle Income **Countries (book launch)**

The book, *Poverty and Inequality in Middle Income Countries*, argues that inequality within the so-called Middle Income Countries should be high on the international poverty agenda. The book was published by Zed Books, London, in CROP's International Studies in Poverty Research series in April 2016. The editors of the book are Einar Braathen, Julian May, Marianne Ulriksen and Gemma Wright.

The formal book launch was held on Wednesday 21 September 2016 at Oslo and Akershus University College of Applied Sciences (HiOA), as this is the home institution of one of the editors, Einar Braathen, at the Norwegian Institute for Urban and Regional Research (NIBR). During the launch, the book was presented by two of the

editors, Einar Braathen (Research Professor at NIBR/ HiOA) and Marianne Ulriksen (Senior Research Fellow, University of Johannesburg & Aarhus University). Other contributors to the book were also present at the book launch and participated in the general discussion.

After a general introduction to the content of the book, there was a panel debate on what characterises global poverty in 2016 and what challenges this «the new poverty map» potentially poses for traditional aid? Members of the panel were Liv Tørres (Director of the Nobel Peace Center), Knut Thonstad (Assistant Director at Norad) and Ivar Lødemel (Professor at the Department of Social Work, Child Welfare and Social Policy), in addition to the editors Braathen and Ulriksen. The debate was moderated by Charlotte Lillefjære-Tertnæs from the CROP Secretariat.

More information

Lecture and launch of the new **Working Paper Series on Global Challenges**

To mark the celebration of UN's International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, Andy Sumner, reader in International Development at King's College London, held a lecture with the title "Ending Global Poverty: Why wait until 2030?" at the Bergen Resource Centre for International Development on 20 October.

The lecture was jointly organized by CROP and UiB Global and sought to discuss new research findings claiming that as causes of poverty are changing, the United Nations' objective to achieve a world free of poverty by 2030 could actually be reached sooner. Several demands regarding

the changes in the causes of poverty and the prospects of achievability of its eradication before 2030 were critically assessed during the lecture.

At the end of his talk, Andy Sumner, in his role as editor, hosted the launch of the new Working Paper Series on Global Challenges, a joint initiative by UiB Global and CROP, and presented the first issue of the series: "Global Inequality since the Cold War: How robust is the optimistic narrative?"

The authors of this paper are Peter Edward of the Newcastle University Business School and Andy Sumner.





2016 General Assembly of the International Social Science Council (ISSC) in Oslo

The 30th ISSC General Assembly took place in Oslo from 24-25 October 2016. The first day of the GA was a joint General Assembly with the International Council for Science (ICSU), where the central topic for discussion was a proposed merger of the two organisations. The General Assembly was followed by a thematic seminar on 26 October on the topic: "On the Move – Global Migrations, Challenges and Responses".

After discussions that highlighted varying points of view on the proposed merger, the joint ISSC/ICSU General Assembly voted to accept an 'in principle' agreement to further explore the merger of the two organisations. A joint task force will be appointed that will work over the next year to develop a transition plan to be presented at next year's joint GA in Taipei. CROP will follow these developments with interest and recognises the challenges and opportunities presented by the prospect of a larger international organisation encompassing all scientific disciplines. CROP was represented at the General Assembly by Scientific Director Alberto Cimadamore, together with administrative staff members Charlotte Lillefjære-Tertnæs and Maria Sollohub.

On the second day, as part of the ISSC's own General Assembly, an "Activities Marketplace" was organised for the ISSC academic programmes. As part of this initiative, CROP was able to present its work to other GA delegates in the form of a PowerPoint presentation, posters and brochures, along with examples of our recent publications.

The Thematic Seminar <u>"On the Move – Global Migrations,</u> <u>Challenges and Responses</u>", on 26 October, was held at Oslo and Akershus University College of Applied Sciences (HiOA) and was fully booked with around 200 registered participants. It was organised jointly by the ISSC, CROP and HiOA, with sponsorship from the Research Council of Norway and support from the Norwegian UNESCO Committee. The seminar addressed current challenges posed by migration and integration worldwide and discussed policy responses and the role of science in addressing these issues. Researchers from all regions of the world and from across the social science disciplines presented current research on migration and engaged in discussions with international experts and practitioners. The identification of future research needs was a cross-cutting theme throughout the conference.

CROP Scientific Director took part in the plenary roundtable discussion "Leaving no one behind: How useful is Agenda 2030 in responding to challenges of migration?"





Social Inclusion and Poverty Eradication Workshop

A two-day international workshop on Social Inclusion and Poverty Eradication was organised by CROP together with the Minda de Gunzburg Center for European Studies and the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, both at Harvard University. The workshop took place from 17-18 November 2016 and was hosted by the Center for European Studies.

Through a combination of an open call for papers and direct invitations, a total of 13 papers were selected to be presented and discussed over the course of the two-day workshop. The aim was to explore and achieve a better understanding of how social inclusion and poverty eradication are interconnected and how social exclusion is causally related to the reproduction of poverty in contemporary societies.

The workshop differed from the typical CROP workshop format in that local specialists were invited as commentators in order to expand the range of disciplines and scientific traditions involved in the debate, and to promote the interaction between Harvard-based scholars and the international colleagues participating in the event. This meant that there were a total of 25 scholars actively participating in the event.

The first day was organised in three panels introducing and debating nine different scientific papers. During the first session, participants articulated critical views on stigmatization, shame and isolation of the poor, analysing how ignored or excluded groups enlarge socioeconomic disadvantage. The second and third sessions were then dedicated to the discussion of disciplines as wide-ranging as the racial exclusion and affirmative action in poverty in India, and the inclusion policies and anti-poverty programmes in the European Union.

Inclusion policies in developing countries and rights to inclusion mechanisms were explored by the international experts as the topics of discussion for the rest of the papers during the final day of the workshop. One of the axes of the workshop was the new development agenda and more precisely, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that refer to "inclusive" development and growth. In the logic of the SDGs, sustained and inclusive economic growth is considered a necessary condition for achieving sustainable development. The relevance of this concept is therefore palpable, as is the need for its operationalization and transformation into precise indicators to measure progress towards the achievement of goals (particularly, SDG#8). The links between economic and social inclusiveness within the new development process pose several research challenges that were also addressed during the debates.

The event ended with the presentation of the book "Child Poverty, Youth (Un)Employment, and Social Inclusion" recently published by <u>CROP</u>. An editorial meeting was also held to discuss possibilities of publication of the papers presented at the workshop.



PUBLICATIONS CROP books published in 2016



Peasant Poverty and Persistence in the 21st Century

During the second

half of 2016, one

published by Zed

Books in the CROP

Studies in Poverty

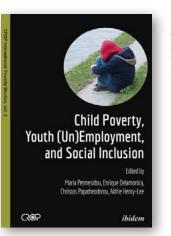
Research series:

more book was

International

Edited by Julio Boltvinik and Susan Archer Mann, this book was published in August 2016 and offers new critical, theoretical, historical and policy perspectives on the persistence of world's peasant and rural poverty.

Several book launch presentations for this book; the first one at El Colegio de México in Mexico City on 27 October; the second at El Centro de Investigaciones y Estudios Superiores en Antropologia Social (CIESAS) in Guadalajara, Mexico, on 17 November (*watch video*). The most recent launch was hosted by the Journal of Agrarian Change and Department of Development Studies at SOAS, London, on 30 November.



In December, the first book in the new CROP International Poverty Studies series with Ibidem Verlag was published;

Child poverty, youth (un)employment and social inclusion

Edited by Maria Petmesidou, Enrique Delamonica, Aldrie Henry-Lee and Christos Papatheodorou, this book was published in December 2016. The 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 supplement existing literature in the field. *More*

Joint winners of CROP International Studies in Poverty Prize 2016

The CROP Secretariat is pleased to announce joint winners of the CROP International Studies in Poverty Prize 2016, awarded in cooperation with Zed Books, London. The prize is awarded annually to outstanding monograph proposals contributing to research on global poverty eradication or prevention.

The 2016 CROP prize will be shared between two excellent submissions:



Inequality In his winning book proposal, David Barkin (Professor of Economics at the Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana in México City) challenges current approaches to alleviating poverty by focusing on the direct action of communities to organise themselves to satisfy their own basic food needs and those of their region with selfhelp development strategies.

60

Meera Tiwari

Why some development works

In the other winning entry,

Meera Tiwari (University of East London) draws attention to success stories in the fight against poverty and focuses on what made them successful. Using a multidimensional understanding of poverty, the book proposal aims to offer insights into causal, enabling, and impeding factors for progress at macro and micro levels.

Both manuscripts will be published as monographs in the book series 'International Studies in Poverty Research', which is a joint venture by CROP and Zed Books.

Special issue of the Journal of International and Comparative Social Policy



During the **World Social Science Forum** in Durban, September 2015, CROP organised two scientific panels; one on "Global Justice and Poverty in the Transformation of Millennium Development Goals into Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)" and one on "Poverty, Social justice and Policy in a Regional Comparative Perspective".

David Barkin

Food Sovereignty

as a Strategy

Poverty and

for Confronting

The presentations made by these panels have been revised for this special issue into critical commentaries and opinion pieces as early responses to the SDG developments, in order to provoke further debate among social policy and social development scholars regarding the adequacy and effectiveness of the SDGs as a framework for increasing global social justice. The special issue was edited by Prof. Bob Deacon, Sheffield University, UK. *Visit Taylor & Francis to download the individual articles*



New Working Paper Series on Global Challenges

A new Global Challenges Working Paper Series is a joint initiative by UiB Global and CROP to publish early research findings related to global challenges such as poverty, inequality, sustainability and other relevant cross-disciplinary issues.

The peer-reviewed open access series will be edited by Dr Andy Sumner of King's College, London, together with an editorial team currently consisting of Alberto Cimadamore (CROP), Tore Sætersdal (UiB Global), Roxana Maurizio (University of Buenos Aires) and Laura Camfield (University of East Anglia). The series was conceived as a vehicle for scholars in our global network to swiftly disseminate their research. It will be made available through the Bergen Open Research Archive (BORA) at the University of Bergen.

The first paper in the series, entitled *Global Inequality and Global Poverty* <u>since the Cold War: How robust is the</u> *optimistic narrative?* is written by

Andy Sumner and Peter Edward of the Newcastle University Business School. The paper is relevant for academics, students of development studies, policy makers in international agencies.

New CROP Poverty Briefs, autumn 2016

The following Poverty Briefs were published between July and December 2016



MEASURING POVERTY IN BANGLADESH: A CRITICAL ASSESSMENT

By Isahaque Ali, Zulkarnain A. Hatta and Azlinda Azman (School of Social Sciences, University of Science, Malaysia)

This study suggests using the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) as a more accurate method for measuring poverty in Bangladesh. It reveals a more precise picture of poverty by shifting attention from solely income factors to include other intrinsically important dimensions such as health, education and living standards.



POVERTY AND SOCIAL INCLUSION: TOWARDS A 'LIFE-FIRST' UNDERSTANDING?

By **Hartley Dean** (Dept. of Social Policy, London School of Economics and Political Science, UK)

This brief argues that a life-first understanding provides a foundation for a politics of social inclusion that resolves the tension between social security and personal autonomy. A shared life-first understanding of social inclusion can offer a holistic basis for a concerted struggle against poverty.



POVERTY AS A WICKED PROBLEM

By Paul Spicker (Robert Gordon University, UK)

Describing poverty as a 'wicked problem' implies that poverty reduction policies are never going to work comprehensively and exhaustively, but they can address some parts of the complex tangle or inter-related issues. Responding to poverty is not a matter of solving problems: it is about trying to make things better than they were before.

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

Video Project: "Visualising Poverty Research"

Five more interviews have been added to the video project "Visualising Poverty Research" in the second semester of 2016. The project was launched by CROP in September 2014, seeking to disseminate poverty research to a wider audience using video interviews published on CROP's YouTube channel (*www.youtube.com/user/CROPSecretariat*)

By 1 December 2016, a total of 37 interviews conducted with researchers belonging to CROP's global network, were available on the YouTube channel - all applying their own research experience to answer standard questions related to poverty.

The channel has now been running for more than two years and the "Visualising Poverty Research" video project has produced the following statistics <u>for the last half of 2016</u>:

- A total number of **668 views** from 1 July to 1 December 2016
- The videos have been accessed from **64 different countries** during the second semester of 2016. As in the first half of the year, Norway, USA and South Africa still represent more than 60% of the visits.



Reader in International Development at King's College London

• The most watched interview has had 520 viewings since it was first published.

In addition to the "Visualising Poverty Research" project, CROP also publishes other videos, including presentations of recent CROP books and the working paper series, thus increasing the total viewings of the channel.

"Visualising Poverty Research" has proved to be an efficient way of disseminating knowledge with a potential to reach a wider audience than our written publications and we are very happy with the results achieved so far.

Globalisation at the Crossroads Rethinking Inequalities and Boundaries EADI NORDIC Conference 2017 21-23 August in Bergen, Norway

Visit to Bergen by representatives from EADI

CROP is one of the member institutions of the European Association of Development Research and Training Institutes (EADI), an organisation with which we will be cooperating closely in 2017. The EADI Nordic Conference 2017, "Globalisation at the Crossroads - Rethinking Inequalities and Boundaries", will take place in Bergen from 21-23 August 2017. The conference is being organised by a joint partnership between EADI, NFU (Norwegian Association of Development Research), the University of Bergen (UiB) and the Chr. Michelsen Institute (CMI). In mid-August 2016, EADI's Executive Secretary Susanne von Itter and Executive Assistant Julia Schönberg visited Bergen in order to start the more detailed planning of next year's event. This also gave room for a meeting between the EADI representatives and the CROP Secretariat, which enabled us to establish a common platform for future joint activities, including CROP's contributions to the 2017 conference.

A call for panels and papers for the Nordic Conference was issued at the end of August and CROP is involved in



several proposals. CROP has been invited to participate in a panel together with EADI's Working Group on Multidimensional Poverty and has proposed a joint meeting with the Working Group to be held within the context of the Conference. There is also a plan to organise a special event to present the latest World Social Science Report in collaboration with the Institute of Development Studies (IDS) and the International Social Science Council (ISSC).

CROP granted NOK 2 million in project funding

In October, CROP was notified of the success of its application to the UTFORSK Programme offered by The Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Education (SIU).

The UTFORSK Partnership Programme

offers long-term funding for joint projects between higher education institutions in Norway and Brazil, China, India, Japan, Russia and South Africa. This funding will support academic partnerships based on the mutual strategic interests of the partner institutions.

CROP submitted an application for a long-term project aimed at revitalizing

educational cooperation between the **University of Kwazulu-Natal (UKZN)** in South Africa and the **University of Bergen**. The project period will run from January 2017 – December 2020 and will establish a series of joint activities to consolidate an international epistemic community in the field of sustainable development and poverty reduction. The **Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA)** will be a network partner, providing the opportunity for wider regional impact.

The title of the project is "Partnership for Poverty and Sustainable Development Studies" and the most



significant outputs will be a series of short-term, intensive courses and summer school courses on poverty and sustainable development for Master and PhD students, as well as a virtual reading room that will provide relevant literature with free and open access.

The total grant awarded is NOK 1 974 934.

Student interns at the CROP Secretariat

The CROP Secretariat received its first Erasmus+ student intern in October 2015. Since then, we have had the pleasure of hosting 1-2 interns as an integrated part of our work at the Secretariat. During their stay at the Secretariat, the students provide invaluable assistance and input to the permanent staff, while they themselves obtain international work experience in the field of research dissemination and administration. They also gain insight into the poverty research being undertaken by members of CROP's global network.





The following interns have been at the Secretariat in the second half of 2016:

- August-October 2016 (full time): Riccarda Sutter (Master student from the Vienna University of Economics and Business, Austria)
- August-December 2016 (part time): Cédric Béguin (Swiss national with a BA from the Hague University of Applied Sciences, The Netherlands)

Laura will be staying at the CROP Secretariat until March 2017 and the next intern will arrive in January 2017. Internships at the CROP Secretariat appear to be attracting well qualified and highly motivated students. The Secretariat has already filled all available internships for the academic year 2016-2017 and is currently recruiting for the academic year 2017-2018.

 From October 2016 (full time): Laura Liberatore (Spanish national with a BA from the King Juan Carlos University of Madrid, Spain)

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www.facebook.com/CROPoverty/

CALENDAR

Selected CROP Events in 2017

13-25 June 2017	PHD COURSE "Agenda 2030: Poverty, Climate Change and Sustainability" as part of the Bergen Summer Research School. BERGEN, NORWAY <u>More</u>
13-15 June 2017	WORKSHOP "Social Policy, Inequality, and Poverty in post- Socialist Societies", ST. PETERSBURG, RUSSIA. <u><i>More</i></u>
6-7 July 2017	WORKSHOP "The Politics of Inclusion", in collaboration with UNESCO's Management of Social Transformations Programme (MOST), PARIS, FRANCE. <u>More</u>
20-23 August 2017	PANELS at the EADI Nordic Conference 2017, "Globalisation at the Crossroads - Rethinking Inequalities and Boundaries", BERGEN, NORWAY <u>More</u>

All dates are subject to confirmation

