



**Annual Report  
January 2002- December 2002**

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*Note: There is also a Spanish version of this Report available in this file.*

## **CLACSO/CROP Programme for Research on Poverty in Latin America and the Caribbean**

### **1. Objectives of the Programme**

In 2002 the Latin American Social Science Council (CLACSO) and the Comparative Research Programme on Poverty (CROP) developed a programme of cooperation with a focus on promoting and strengthening comparative poverty research in Latin America and the Caribbean.

During the last few years both institutions have developed a programme of cooperation in which the aim is to promote workshops, conferences, courses and research on poverty in Latin America and the Caribbean. The idea is to academically support the initiatives for the reduction of poverty in the least developed countries and areas of the region. A programme with these characteristics is conceived as an instrument to promote and improve research on poverty, as well as the exchange of information and communication between academics and applied researchers.

In addition, the Programme has functioned as a network for the preparation of joint publications and as a means for the distribution of initial research results relevant for the development of the region.

One of the objectives of the Programme has been to neutralize the negative impact on academic life of the profound economic, social and institutional inequalities that exist between the different countries in the region. In these terms, it has stimulated and encouraged the participation and insertion of researchers and various institutions in CLACSO/CROP activities in countries where there have not been the same academic opportunities or institutionalisation of the social sciences. In addition it has advanced both regionally and internationally the operation of the network of researchers working on issues of poverty.

The Programme concentrates on three basic areas: research-grants for junior and senior researchers, net-based courses and international conferences.

## **2. Achievements of the Programme**

- The Programme authorised a total of ten research grants to junior and senior researchers working in Central America, the Caribbean, Bolivia, Ecuador and Paraguay.
- Two courses were taught on CLACSO's virtual campus for researchers, policy-makers and others working in poverty reduction programmes throughout the region.
- Three international conferences in Honduras, Guatemala and Cuba were held to help publicise and support the work of specialists and academics working on questions of poverty in the region.

In the following pages a fuller description of these activities will be given along with important supporting documentation.

## **3. General Evaluation**

### **3.1 Research Grants for Junior and Senior Researchers**

The Competition for Research Grants CLACSO/CROP 2002 with the title "The Role of the State in Poverty Reduction" was opened to junior researchers and senior researchers in the countries of Central America, the Caribbean, Bolivia, Ecuador and Paraguay. The aim is to strengthen scientific research on issues of poverty in the poorest countries in the region. Following the recommendation of an international jury the competition allocated six junior awards of US\$5,000 and four senior awards of US\$10,000 to secure the commitment of the researchers over a period of ten months.

The competitions were advertised and described in full on the web-sites of both CLACSO and CROP, as well as in their institutional newsletters, electronic mailing lists and information targeted directly at the 130 member institutions of CLACSO from March to May 2002.

The close of the competition was originally the 29<sup>th</sup> of May, 2002, but was postponed until the 28<sup>th</sup> of June due to unfortunate events in some countries that made access to electronic information difficult.

In the Senior Research Category a total of twenty-one researchers applied, of which nine were women and twelve were men. Eighteen of the applications fulfilled the technical and formal requirements established by the research competition's regulations. These were examined by

an international jury. The candidates accepted for this process were from the following countries: Bolivia (8), Costa Rica (2), Cuba (2), Ecuador (4), Guatemala (1) and Paraguay (1). The three others from Honduras, Mexico and Venezuela were not accepted because of their failure to meet the competition's requirements.

In the Junior Category there were a total of seventeen applications, nine women and eight men. Twelve of these met the technical and formal requirements of the competition and were examined by the international jury. These applications came from the following countries: Bolivia (8), Costa Rica (1), Ecuador (1) and Paraguay (2). Five of the applications from applicants in Argentina (3), Mexico (1) and Nicaragua (1) were not accepted by the jury because of their failure to meet the requirements of the competition. Because the competition was aimed at researchers resident in Central America, the Caribbean, Bolivia, Ecuador and Paraguay, all applications from outside these regions and countries were refused.

An international jury was chosen and met at the Executive Secretariat of CLACSO in the city of Buenos Aires, 22- 23 July, 2002. This jury consisted of Daniel Olesker, Andrés Serbín and Atilio A. Boron (Appendices 4 and 5).

In the first round the jury only considered the applications on academic basis and without access to personal and institutional information that describe the different candidates. In this way the jury formed a list of projects classified according to the country of origin: place of birth, the candidates alias and project title.

Once the projects were evaluated and an order of merit established, the jury then formed a second list containing personal and institutional information about each candidate: the country of residence, supporting institution, nationality and name of the candidate together with the project and alias they were registered with.

The jury could then compare the two lists of candidates together with their CVs and consider other issues such as regional diversity and gender.

The combination of the three criteria (academic excellence, regional diversity and gender) was then used as the basis for the selection of the grant beneficiaries.

In the first round, in which only the projects were considered, they took into account the following:

- a) The originality of the proposal. That is to say, in the case of the senior researchers, their contribution to a debate, the production of new knowledge and possible generation of relevant information on the theme of the competition. In the case of the junior researchers, their capacity to take in new ideas and a focus conducive to theoretical exploration and the generation of relevant empirical information. In addition, consideration was made of their awareness of regional, national and international linkages and pressures, and contribution to the discussion of the role of the state in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- b) The incorporation of a critical, creative, multi-disciplinary, plural, genuinely Latin American or Caribbean perspective in their reflection over the central and most pressing themes of the competition.
- c) A solid methodology. The viability of their proposals and the existence of a suitable methodology to sustain their arguments and demonstrate the hypotheses at the centre of their projects.
- d) The thematic relevance of the proposal in relation to the competition: demonstration of a critical, rigorous and well-defined perspective.
- e) Once the projects were considered from the point of view of their design, theory, methodology, personal and institutional background, regional diversity and gender, the Jury added the further criteria:
  - In the case of senior researchers, the academic career and research of the beneficiaries, such that they relate to the basis of the competition, should be “social science that contributes to the solid theoretical and methodological formation, an extensive professional career and considerable academic production”.
  - In the case of junior researchers, emphasis was placed on their age, such that their selection was kept to those younger than thirty years old.

The Jury concluded that there were only six of the projects presented by juniors that merited research awards. With this in mind the jury resolved that four of the grants should not be assigned and recommended to the Programme that they assign half of these grants to the

senior category. They proposed that the other half be transferred to the 2003 Junior competition category. These proposals were accepted.

The beneficiaries of the stipend competition were:

Juniors: Wilmar Henry Ascárraga Sejas (Bolivia); Myrian Soledad Benítez Aguilera (Paraguay); Diego Giacomán Aramayo (Bolivia); Mauricio López Ruiz (Costa Rica); Natacha Morales Escoffier (Bolivia); María Cecilia Ramos Arauco (Bolivia). (See Appendix N° 4)

Seniors: Silvia Escobar de Pabón (Bolivia); Carlos Larrea (Ecuador); Abelardo Morales Gamboa (Costa Rica); Fernando Benito Salazar Ortuño (Bolivia). (See Appendix N° 5)

Before the grants were released a methodological tutor was assigned to the first group. The main function being the supervision of the 6 junior researchers in the space assigned for them in CLACSO's Virtual Campus. The beneficiaries of the awards are obligated to periodically use this platform of communication. Through this medium they are accompanied by the Programme Coordination, are able to take part in the courses available there and participate in debate in virtual conferences especially designed for them. In addition, during their research, the methodological tutor supervises their progress and participation in debate.

The contracts signed by the beneficiaries establish the period of research as between the 15<sup>th</sup> of August 2002 and the 15<sup>th</sup> of June 2003.

The obligations of the grant beneficiaries (Senior and Junior) are the following:

1. To present the Executive Secretariat of CLACSO with two partial reports to be realised during the first and second periods covered by the grant. The first report must be presented before the 15 of December 2002 and the second on the 15<sup>th</sup> of March 2003. Both reports must contain the following:

- The activities realised during the corresponding period of the grant.
- An outline of the expected final results.
- A synthesis of material resulting from the research work (e.g. questionnaires, taped-interviews, notes on interviews, etc).
- A narrative synthesis of the activities carried out during the grant period.

2. To present a final report to the Executive Secretariat of CLACSO and CROP before the 31 of June 2003. The final report must contain the following information:

- In the case of the juniors: an article in which they develop the problem and case of study.
- In the case of the seniors: a final work (150-250 pages) edited and corrected for immediate publication.
- Both works must contain: i) A descriptive/narrative part that, beyond the development of a solid methodology, presents and describes clearly the problem addressed in the research and the state of art in thinking about this theme. ii) A theoretical section that studies the chosen theme and contributes at depth to current debates on the topic “The Role of the State in Poverty Reduction”. Depending on the project presented, the work should also include a section in which theory and practice are integrated in an innovative manner and aim to stimulate discussion about the challenges, strategies and politics of current social policy in the region. The works should be edited and corrected so that they can be included in a collection of the final results of the research period. The Executive Secretariat of CLACSO will publish these collections in both electronic and paper forms.
- A methodological appendix in which the fundamental research methods are described, including the sources of information, and analysis of results.
- A narrative report of no more than 4-5 pages, that will describe the experience of the stipend holder, a brief description of their research and personal evaluation of the Programme on the 31 of June 2003.
- As part of the Grant Programme, each beneficiary is expected to periodically use CLACSO’s Virtual Campus as a means of communication and conferencing. The Executive Secretariat of CLACSO will maintain the communication and manage the activities of the Programme.

The beneficiaries sign a Contract with CLACSO and receive payments after the delivery and approval of their partial reports (2) and the final report.

In order to assist the management of the Regional Grants Programme of CLACSO, the unit responsible for the management of the CLACSO/CROP Programme Stipends, the beneficiaries are supplied with the above information. In addition, they are sent a document containing the standard requirements for the editing and publication of their work.

### **3.2. Virtual Courses**

The Virtual Campus is a medium of communication, information and diffusion of the Regional and International Programmes and Projects of CLACSO. It permits the optimisation of research efforts by integrating the areas and groups that make up the organisation's activities. The "virtual space" enables interaction between all of the scholars in the research centres affiliated to CLACSO and allows for the dissemination of the advances and results of research throughout the Latin American and Caribbean academic community.

It is also important to stress that this technology offers new possibilities for continuous training and re-training of researchers. In addition, it democratises public access to the knowledge and findings generated by the region's social science community.

Through their Virtual Campus CLACSO is promoting distant-learning, electronic access to information, communication between experts throughout the world and the participation of groups from different regions. This creates a more accurate perspective and account of international social change.

The award beneficiaries and methodological tutors receive, as part of their work and interaction in the Virtual Campus, a training course in distance-learning and communication as well as their more thematically targeted courses.

For matriculation in the distance-learning courses of CLACSO's Virtual Campus, a registration form is sent out. CLACSO collects the certificates of all the students that fulfil the evaluation requirements demanded by the heads of each course.

Training is given to the heads of the course with regards to the function and practice of distance-learning. The aim is to train them in the use of the new platform of communication and its use as a device for management, administration, teaching and inter-change of information.

The department responsible for training have developed the following programme:

1. First stage: Send the first messages to the email accounts so that they can be read, consult the doubts they present and start inter-action in the Campus. The messages contain the following information:

- Training course programme
- Teaching staff 2002
- Time-table of courses 2002
- Instructions for accessing the Virtual Campus
- Exercises 1,2,3
- Exercises 4,5
- Technical Manual for Users of the FirstClass software.

2. Second Stage: all the inter-action and inter-change of electronic messages between the teachers and coordinators is made through the Mailbox and Virtual Campus Training conference. It deals with the following issues:

- The level of Internet services
- Work with the Campus Office
- The use of resources mediated by the mode of configuration
- Work with Windows and the In-box
- The use of tool bars
- Conference set-up (lecture, the sending of and response to messages)
- Transfer of archives
- Search for specific text
- Chat with other users
- Internet

3. Third Stage: Redesign the methodology of distance-learning in relation to each course. This work is a collaboration between the teaching staff and the Campus coordinators and includes the following points:

- The definition of information to be included in the CD-ROM
- Sending and test of the digital bibliography for the distance courses
- Examples of theoretical examples for distance-learning courses
- Design of the conferences for each Virtual Campus course
- Rules & Regulations Manual for the Virtual Campus

- Student questionnaire and system of evaluation
- Operation and thematic definition of conference on the Virtual Campus

The course offered under the CLACSO/CROP Programme were the following:

### **3.2.1. Poverty, Social Exclusion and Public Policy in Latin America and the Caribbean (Aula 516)**

Teaching staff: Alicia Ziccardi, Institute of Social Research, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México and CLACSO Work Group on Poverty and Social Policy.

65 students from the following countries matriculated for this course: Argentina, Bolivia, Brasil, Chile, Colombia, Alemania, Ecuador, Guatemala; Honduras, México, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Perú, Uruguay y Venezuela. The course started on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of October and ended on the 8<sup>th</sup> of January, the date on which the students had to submit their final evaluations. Of the 46 students who finished the course a total of 25 were given certificates of approval. 12 students finished the course but did not fulfil the requirements to receive the certificate and 9 students did not finish the course. ( See the accompanying CD for the course outline and bibliography. The appendices also include information on evaluations, classes and questionnaires).

### **3.2.2 The Reform of the State and Social Policy in Latin America and the Caribbean**

Teaching Staff: Laura Tavares Soares y Pablo Gentili, Public Policy Laboratory, University of the State of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

29 students were matriculated from the following countries: Argentina, Alemania, Bolivia, Brasil, Cuba, Ecuador, México, Perú, Uruguay y Venezuela. The classes started on the 5th of August and the final exercises of the students were delivered on the 22nd of November. The final evaluation of the students and delivery of the certificates were made in December 2002. Of the 26 students at the end of the course 7 were given Certificates of Approval. 13 students finished the course, but did not fulfil the requirements to obtain the certificate and 6 students did not complete the course. (See the accompanying CD for the course outline and bibliography. The appendices also include information on evaluations, classes and questionnaires).

Details of the criteria for evaluation and the delivery of corresponding certificates to each course can be found in the academic programme on the CD sent to the students and attached to this report.

### **Evaluation of the Students**

- The coordinators of the Virtual Campus and the teaching staff continuously appraised the work of the students, applying a pedagogy, methodology and technology suited to each one.
- In their evaluation of the students they took into account the following: a) academic ability and concern with the content of their work b) technical ability (related to the activities of the Virtual Campus).
- In addition, as part of the final evaluation, the Virtual Campus sent to the students a questionnaire that allows a quantitative and qualitative analysis of the use of virtual platform, the development of the course, the inter-action of students and teachers, etc.

As a requirement for the immediate receipt of the Certificate of Approval, the students have to have fulfilled the following:

- 100% attendance of theory classes
- the submission of a minimum of 80% participation in the virtual classes and response to the questions of the teachers (these are evaluated by the teaching staff according to their pertinence and use of the proposed bibliography)
- the submission of the final evaluation questionnaire to the Virtual Campus at the end of the course

The participation of the students in the courses' Chat sessions is not obligatory. They are, however, taken into account where the teachers are unsure about the student's satisfaction of the courses' formal requirements. (e.g. if the student does not fulfil 80% participation in the classes, but has participated in the chat sessions).

Once the teaching staff have made their final corrections and comments on the evaluations, these are sent to the students and published in a special conference, listing comments on the registration of each student, their participation in debates, conferences and participation in chat sessions etc.

## **Delivery of Certificates**

The Certificates for the distance learning courses will be divided between Certificates of Approval and Certificates of Participation according to the criteria agreed by the teaching staff and Virtual Campus coordinators, in both cases giving credits for the teaching obtained. The different criteria for the different types of certificate are:

Certificate of Approval: 100% attendance of classes, 80% participation in the teaching staff activities and discussions, the delivery of the evaluation questionnaire.

Certificate of Participation: 100% attendance of classes, 60% participation in the teaching staff activities and discussions, the delivery of the evaluation questionnaire.

Spaces especially designed so that CLACSO/CROP researchers develop their conference activities in the Virtual Campus include:

- General Academic Coordination: Space designed for debate and interaction between researchers.
- Relation between thematic groups and the Grant Conference: space for academic exchange.
- General Training and Grant Beneficiaries Conferencing: space designed for the teaching of the use and management of new technologies of communication and information.
- Thematic Training for Grant Beneficiaries Conferencing: Space created to allow invited regional and international professors to give courses or workshops on themes related to the work of the researchers.
- Space for Distance- Learning: space composed of different conferences that have to do with the organisation of the academic work of the Junior researchers. These include:
  - Debates: space for academic discussion and exchange of opinions and comments between researchers, teachers, tutors and the General Coordinators of the Campus.
  - Bibliography: Space for bibliographic references, with links to virtual libraries and web-sites related to the theme of study.

- Agenda: Space for the organisation and scheduling of activities, discussions, conferences and the advertisement of outside seminars, workshops, meetings etc.
- Virtual Seminar: Space created for the presentation of grant beneficiaries research results.

### **3.3. International Seminars**

With the goal of continuing to add to the network of researchers working on themes related to poverty three international conferences were organised during this period.

3.3.1 The first of them dealt with the theme “ Indigenous Populations and Poverty: A Multi-disciplinary Focus” and was held between 4-7 November 2001 in Antigua, Guatemala. The event was co-organised by CLACSO, CROP and the Faculty of Latin American Social Sciences / Guatemala (FLACSO).

This seminar was originally meant to inaugurate the CLACSO/CROP Programme but due to some initial delays with financing and the impossibility of changing dates, it was held at the end of 2001.

The event was organised in two parts. The first, 4-6 November, was an academic seminar based on the presentation and discussion of papers evaluated and selected by an Academic Committee. The papers were commented and debated by the 30 participants at the event.

The second part, 6-8 November, consisted of a public session for public functionaries, politicians and NGOs in Guatemala in which the national plans for the reduction of poverty were discussed together with the input of the researchers. This second part of the event was organised together with the Guatemalan National Secretariat for Planning (SEGEPLAN). Over one hundred people attended the session. A publication for the session has been proposed by FLACSO.

The academic session was divided into 5 areas, where 14 papers were presented and discussed by specialists from 9 countries: Panama, Peru, Colombia, Argentina, Holland, the United States, Mexico, Norway y Brazil (Appendix 1)

The Academic Committee for the Seminar was composed of: Virgilio Alvarez (FLACSO, Guatemala); Atilio Boron (CLACSO, Argentina); Héctor Díaz-Polanco (Centre for Advanced Social Anthropological Research and Study -CIESAS, México); Laura Tavares Soares (State University of Rio de Janeiro, Brasil) and Willem van Genugten (Tilburg University, Holand).

3.3.2 CLACSO and CROP contributed to the organisation of the International Development Ethics Association's (IDEA) conference in Zamorano, Honduras, 19-22 June 2002. The title of the conference was "Poverty, Corruption and Human Rights: Ethics of Citizenship and Public Service". The conference brought together ethicists, development scholars, poverty researchers, corruption analysts, and development practitioners to forge better approaches to controlling corruption and advancing the public good. It also aimed to delineate the causal relationships between poverty, corruption, and human rights violations.

3.3.3 A third seminar was held in Havana, Cuba on the 4-6 November 2002 with the theme "Strategies for the Reduction of Poverty in the Caribbean: External Actors and their Impact in the Reduction of Poverty in the Region"

The event was co-organised by CLACSO, CROP, the Centre for Psychological and Sociological Research (CIPS) and the Centre for International Economic Research (CIEI).

The Academic Committee was composed of: Laura Tavares (University of the State of Rio de Janeiro-UERJ, Brazil), José Lázaro Hernández (CIPS, Cuba), Lázaro Peña (CIEI, Cuba) y Atilio Boron (CLACSO).

At the event 13 papers were presented by specialists from nine countries: Guatemala, Jamaica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Cameroon, Canada, the United States, Puerto Rico, Mexico y Brazil (Appendix 2).

Making use of the presence of Executive Secretariat of CLACSO, the Scientific Director of CROP, the Norwegian and Argentinean Coordinators of the CLACSO/CROP Programme, Members of CROP's Scientific Committee and functionaries of CLACSO, it was also possible to hold meetings during this period to analyse the events of the cooperation programme in 2002 and to plan development activities for the following year.

#### **4. Social Observatory in Latin America (OSAL)**

OSAL is a special programme started by CLACSO to promote and support new critical reflection over the realities of capitalism in Latin America, with particular attention to the diverse forms of social antagonism in the different countries of the region. In this sense, the institutionally defined objectives of the programme are:

1. To study social conflict and form a permanent register of the information related to protest, social movements and the evolution of the society in Latin American and Caribbean societies.
2. To promote reflection, analysis and debate between researchers and groups of researchers about conflict and social movements.
3. To stimulate the exchange of ideas between academics, representatives of organisations, social movements and the public in general, aiming to collaborate in the reconstitution of Latin American critical thought.

The principal activities developed are:

- The publication of the Nos. 6 (January 2002), 7 (June 2002) and 8 (September 2002) of OSAL's quarterly magazine. (We forward the three last copies with this report)
- A daily survey of 60 journals in the region- with attention to the social conflict of nineteen countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- The Participation of researchers and groups of researchers in CLACSO's network for the study and supervision of social conflict chronology.
- Creation of a data-base about social protest in Latin America and the Caribbean and the analysis of the evolution and formation of social conflict.
- The organisation, co-organisation and participation in more than 15 events (seminars, round-tables etc) about the problem of social movements and conflict in Latin America.
- Distribution of publications through different academic channels and Argentinean and the international media of information about social movements.

The distribution of the results has been made in important international events like the II World Social Forum in Porto Alegre (January/February 2002) and the Argentinean Social Forum (August 2002), the International Book Fair of Buenos Aires, Argentina (May 2002) and Guadalajara, Mexico (December 2002).

## **5. Virtual Library**

CLACSO's Virtual Library is a development in the areas of information, distribution and the academic networks of the Council. The principle objectives of the library are that each member institution are able to offer their researchers the ability to distribute and publish their research findings at both the national and international levels.

The progress made during the period of the report is the following:

#### **CLACSO's Regional data-base:**

- The bibliographic data-base registered 658 new publications by the member institutions. Having entered the bibliographic information about each publication, a short abstract and electronic address are added to allow those using the data-base to communicate directly with the author.
- In the data-base of research projects 245 entries were made. In each entry it is possible get information about each researcher, their place of affiliation, dates and research methodology, collaborating institutions, financing, a brief description and the email address of the researcher.
- 329 new profiles were registered in the data-base of research centres.

#### **Transference of the data-base to Linux**

CLACSO's network has utilised "free" software in order to facilitate the public use of services and products on the net. For this reason it has moved the data-base to Linux and is now investigating software produced by the regional network BIREME (Brazil).

#### **Lecture Room of the Virtual Library**

We have loaded 9 books into the Lecture Hall of the Virtual Library: IEF-CTA, Argentina (2 books), CIS/ARCIS, Chile (3 books) y CIPS, Cuba (4 books). The Virtual Library has 220 complete texts and documents by member institutions, as well as access to other collections.

#### **Publication Bulletin for Member Institutions**

In addition to entering the publications of member institutions into the data-base we have initiated in collaboration with CLACSO's Distribution Department, a weekly bulletin that

publishes on the Council web-pages information about member institutions' recent publications.

### **Advertising of the Virtual Library**

On the basis of the Digital Libraries Forum (Corporation for National Research Initiatives, USA), CLACSO has contacted the Social Science Gateway (<http://www.sosig.ac.uk/welcome.html>) in order to ask for the inclusion of the Virtual Library in its directory.

CLACSO has a training course on the Virtual Library for librarians, editors and web-masters of member institutions. This is a course of three months carried out each year. The course covers the theory, methodology and practice of virtual libraries. The first of these courses was held between August and October last year with the participation of CLACSO professors, the University of Guadalajara and UNESCO/University of Colima's Digital Iberoamerican Library. There were 37 participants from 16 institutions and 8 countries. Of the participants 65% were librarians, 6% editors, 19% researchers working on the issue and 10% web-masters.

During the course and its preparation they exchanged a total of 1,115 messages in the Virtual Campus, carried out 7 chat-sessions and carried out numerous practical tasks on-line.

The potential of the Virtual Library of CLACSO is enormous. It is a pioneering development in the region and its connection to the international movement promoting free access to completed and published texts (open access) opens an opportunity to transform the way in which social science is produced and the information used in research, education and practice in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The next stage in the pilot project, is for the Virtual Library to constitute a working platform where all the member institutions can from their own web-sites enter the Library to process on-line their publications and make public social science production. This demands new technology and new innovation.

## 6. Plan for 2003

We will continue to develop the same activities as last year in accordance with the principles and contents of the original project.

At the moment we are working to organise two international conferences. The first on “ The Role of the State in the Struggle Against Poverty” in Recife, Brazil 18-21 March, 2003 (Appendix 10). This event will be co-organised by CLACSO, CROP and the Joaquim Nabuco Foundation (FJN). The second will be held in Bolivia towards the end of the year. The location and theme of the conference are still being discussed by the organisers. A planning meeting is now set between the co-organisers of the event, i.e. CLACSO, CROP and the Centre for Work and Agricultural Development (CEDLA, Bolivia), at the start of April.

We will continue to work with the publication of the book “Indigenous Peoples and Poverty” together with the Centre for Regional Development at the University of Edith Cowan, Australia. This book will be largely based in the contributions made to the international conference held in Guatemala (CLACSO/CROP 2001). The seminar organised together with FLACSO/ Guatemala in November 2001 had a strong positive impact on the research and teaching community in Guatemala. As a result FLACSO have now started a Masters level course on issues of Poverty.

We will compile and edit the material produced by the Research Competition in 2002 about the “The Role of the State in the Struggle Against Poverty”.

We have now decided on the theme of the second round of Research Stipends. The competition this year will be for research awards on the theme of “ The Political Economy of Poverty in Latin America and the Caribbean” (see the attached call for applicants).

The Virtual Campus will offer new courses in 2003. These are:

- Poverty, Social Exclusion and Public Policy in Latin America and the Caribbean (Aula 533). Teaching Staff: Carmen Midaglia (Uruguay), Laura Golbert (Argentina), Carlos Fidel (Argentina), Vania Salles (México), Rolando Cordera (México) y Alicia Puyana (México) and CLACSO’s work group on Poverty. Closure of Matriculation: 16<sup>th</sup> May, 2003. The course will run from June to September 2003.

- Political Economy and Social Inequality (Aula 538). Teaching Staff: Laura Tavares Soares y Sulamis Dain, Laboratory of Public Policy and Social Medicine, University of the State Rio de Janeiro (Brazil). Closure of Matriculation: 8<sup>th</sup> August, 2003.

The Virtual Library, OSAL and the Research Grant Programme will continue to develop their different activities as originally planned.