

CROP newsletter

Comparative Research Programme On Poverty

Vol. 9, No. 1, February 2002

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by Prof. Else Øyen

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frontiers of poverty research

NEW CLACSO/CROP PROGRAMME

Frontiers of research are usually presented as the latest research results and new interpretations of existing knowledge. The many organisational steps preceding new and exciting research findings are an element which is often neglected when the process of creating new knowledge is described. In our day and time comparative studies are being recognised as vital for the creation of new knowledge. The problems of organising cross-national research and systematic exchange of knowledge in a long-term perspective are, however, often underestimated. It is an arduous process which calls for patience, scholarly generosity and mutual trust, and requires a broad-based organisational platform. For individual scholars to do comparative studies on their own is generally not possible unless they are part of an otherwise functional infrastructure. It is within this framework CLACSO (Consejo Latinoamericano de Ciencias Sociales¹) and CROP have decided to develop a joint programme to strengthen poverty research in general and comparative poverty studies in particular, in Latin America and the Caribbean. During the last two years CROP and CLACSO have moved towards a very fruitful collaboration through joint workshops and exchange of knowledge on organisational and academic issues. The programme can be seen as a result of this experience.

One aim of the Programme is to develop an organisational setting to facilitate the entrance of junior scholars into poverty

research and to keep senior scholars in the field. For this purpose 10 10-months stipends for juniors (under the age of 30) and 3 10-months stipends for seniors (no age limit) will be announced each year for the next 3 years. The topic for the first year of stipends is "The Role of the State in Poverty Reduction". For more details on the announcement and the rules for the competition, see the CROP and CLACSO webpages in March.

Another aim of the Programme is to encourage the formation of a Latin American arena of poverty researchers. To move in such direction two workshops a year on important topics for the region will be organised for poverty researchers from different parts of the continent. The first two were held in respectively Argentina and Guatemala, and the next three are to be in Honduras and Cuba (see elsewhere for Call for Papers) and Brasil (2003). The workshop in Brasil has the same topic as that of the first year of stipends and will be co-ordinated with a meeting of those receiving a stipend in 2002.

A third aim of the Programme is to update knowledge on poverty research and offer courses on central poverty issues. Such courses will be organised both through a virtual campus and directly in conjunction with the workshops. The first two courses will be offered in 2002 through the CLACSO virtual campus. The courses will be given in Spanish. CLACSO has developed expertise in virtual teaching that the Programme will benefit from. To obtain synergies the first two courses will also focus on the theme of "The Role of the State in Poverty Reduction". For more details see the CROP and CLACSO

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webpages in March.

The Programme as such does not plan to carry out its own research. Neither will it be able to give financial support to the research projects under its umbrella. It is envisaged as a tool for research initiation and project co-ordination support, as well as a center point for scholarly communication and information exchange. Participants in the Programme activities and other interested parties are encouraged to make contact with the Programme Secretariats to initiate comparative poverty studies.

Still another aim of the Programme is to be instrumental in the preparation of joint publications and other means of distributing the results of research initiated under the Programme as well as the distribution of other relevant research results for the region.

The Programme is directed towards the poorer regions of Latin America and the Caribbean in particular, and scholars from these regions will be given preference of participation. However, the intention is to create an arena for all Latin American and Caribbean poverty researchers and wherever possible also link them to the international arena already established by CROP.

The Programme will be guided by a Scientific Committee consisting of well-reputed poverty researchers and will undergo an independent evaluation after 3 years. A major part of the programme is made possible through generous financial support from NORAD, The Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation.

The organisations of CROP and CLACSO will take joint responsibility for the implementation of the activities outlined above. Two Programme co-ordinators located in respectively the CROP Secretariat in Bergen, Norway, and the CLACSO Secretariat in Buenos Aires, will be responsible for the daily administration of the activities and function as contact persons for the Programme. Until these co-ordinators are in place you may use the ordinary CROP email address and the CLACSO E-mail: fabiana@clacso.edu.ar for information concerning the Programme. Spanish and English will be working languages.

It is our hope that this new Programme can become an important tool towards moving the frontiers of poverty research still further. I invite our colleagues inside and outside the Latin American continent to join in this new endeavour.

Else Øyen, Scientific Director of CROP

Notes:

¹ For more information on the Latin American Social Science Council see www.clacso.org

Call for papers

CROP, Consejo Latinoamericano de Ciencias Sociales (CLACSO), Centro de Investigaciones Psicológicas y Sociales (CIPS), and Centro de Investigaciones de la Economía Internacional (CIEI)

convene a workshop on:

Poverty Reducing Strategies in the Caribbean - With particular emphasis on external actors and their impact on poverty formation in the area

Havana, Cuba, November 4-6, 2002

This workshop is a follow-up of the CROP/CLACSO workshops on Demography of Poverty in Latin America (Buenos Aires 2000) and Indigenous Populations and Poverty: Multi-disciplinary Approaches (Guatemala 2001).

Within the collection of countries in the American periphery, those integrated in the sub-region of the Caribbean display different characteristics to those of the remainder of the continent. The mainly insular Antilles have existed for many years with few formal relations between them. This part of the hemisphere was where the circles of colonialism had greater duration. The diversity of the colonial origin of the sub-region has given rise to a complex picture of marked cultural divergence rooted in Hispanic, Anglophone, Francophone and Dutch cultures. This is displayed through differences of language, as well as institutional, religious and cultural variations.

Apart from the geography and a somewhat similar economic development, the Caribbean possesses a common ethnic-cultural denominator: the African presence, qualitatively equivalent to the Indo-American presence in the Andean region. Another common denominator in the sub-region, is the extent of poverty and inequality. In some countries they are among the highest of the continent.

The papers presented at the workshop must concentrate on one or several of the following topics:

1. Profiles of poverty in the Caribbean and the debate on and pertinence of the indicators and indices of measurement of poverty. Comparative analyses of different approaches to poverty and poverty reduction in the region.
2. Co-operation between local and international actors and the opening for local actors to influence the agenda of international actors and setting of priorities in the use of resources, and analytical tools.
3. The cultural setting and educational aspects of poverty reducing strategies. A discussion of traditions and practical situations in the development of poverty reducing strategies in projects of collaboration, with particular emphasis on ethics and values, of the actors engaging in poverty reduction.

The workshop will be limited to 35 participants. Preference will be given to researchers from insular and continental Caribbean and Latin America. All participants will be expected to take part in the proceedings (in Spanish and English), presenting and discussing papers.

Participants bear the responsibility for their own funding. However, a limited number of travel grants are available. The grants will be awarded according to geography, and the relevance, quality and originality of the abstract/paper. Please indicate if you need a travel grant, enclose a budget, and state the amount you are able to cover from other sources. As a rule, food and accommodation will be covered for all participants during the workshop.

If you wish to present a paper, please send an abstract to:

Dra. **Yolanda Ricardo**, CIPS, Calle B no. 352 esquina a 15, Vedado. La Habana, CUBA
Tel: +537-3-7787/-30-1451, Fax: +537-33-4327, E-mail: cips@ceniai.inf.cu

THE DEADLINE IS APRIL 30, 2002

The abstract should include: Personal name, title, full postal (and E-mail) address, TELEPHONE and FAX numbers; the title of the proposed paper and a summary of the main theme or argument, including theory, methods and findings. Do not exceed 300 words. Include also a brief CV and list of your most recent publications on a separate sheet.

Participants will be notified by May 31 whether their proposals for papers have been accepted or not, and will then be given details of the format in which the papers should be prepared (the deadline for submission of the paper will be September 15, 2002).

editorial

CROP's activities stretches way into Latin America. Perhaps even more significant than the work has been the way, the process, in which it has been done. Crucial to this process has been the collaboration between CROP and CLACSO, the Consejo Latinoamericano de Ciencias Sociales.

Described in more detail elsewhere in the newsletter this collaboration is not only one which we celebrate but one which we believe should be used as a model for further work in other parts of the world. In Africa for example. I believe that the time is now ripe to begin to move seriously towards the development of a co-operative framework for research on poverty in the continent. A number of CROP workshops—in Botswana, Ghana, Morocco and South Africa—have already been held and there has been a lively response from many different parts of the continent, including Nigeria, Tanzania and Uganda, to the recent CROP call for papers on *Poverty and water, with particular reference to Africa South of the Equator*.

It is important of course not to try to re-invent the wheel nor to do things that are already being done nor to become involved in unnecessary turf wars. But it does seem that there is work to be done and that CROP might have a role to play in encouraging the emergence of a more formal collaborative framework promoting comparative research. This process might be linked to the idea (brought forward before) of encouraging statistical data centers able to access and analyse local/national data sets in different countries and working with each other across the Internet.

Thus, for example, one might begin to build on the work that it has been possible to do in South Africa since the ending of Apartheid. Reaching out from places like the Universities of Cape Town and Natal in Durban to Universities in Gaborone (Botswana), Makerere (Uganda) and wherever else CROP links have been or can be forged, there needs to be developed a network of co-equal collaborating partners able to exchange knowledge, skills, data and colleagues in a way which overcomes isolation and enhances the synergy of the whole network.

Perhaps the first step is to find out who, based in different universities or other research centers in Africa, is interested in the idea. And what different individuals or institutions might be willing to offer to the process. What training programs already exist or could be rapidly developed? What national or other data sets exist and could be made more widely available?

The focus on the analysis of hard data in this proposal should not for one moment be construed as an unwillingness by CROP to recognize the importance of qualitative analysis. Rather it

Call for papers

International Development Ethics Association (IDEA) holds its 6th International Conference on Ethics and International Development in collaboration with CROP

Poverty, Corruption, and Human Rights: Ethics of Citizenship and Public Service

Escuela Agrícola Panamericana, Zamorano, Honduras, June 19-22, 2002

Conference Aims: The 2002 IDEA conference will bring together ethicists, development scholars, poverty researchers, corruption analysts, and development practitioners to forge better approaches to controlling corruption and advancing the public good. Its threefold aim is to address aspects of the central conference theme, enable IDEA members and other development ethicists to share and receive comments on their current work, and encourage fruitful dialogue between theorists and practitioners of development. This balance between a central conference theme and IDEA's engagement with the full range of development issues has been the tradition in the previous IDEA conferences and workshops in Costa Rica ('84, '87), Mexico ('89), U.S.A. ('91), Honduras ('92), Chile ('95, '96), Scotland ('96), and India ('97).

Central Theme: The conference aims to understand corruption and evaluate it from normative points of view. It also seeks to delineate the causal relationships between poverty, corruption, and human rights violations. To what extent and how does poverty generate corruption and vice-versa? What links exist between corruption and other human rights violations? Given the causes and consequences of corruption and the various policy responses to this widespread practice, the conference will ethically assess different types of corruption and diverse ways of controlling it. Honduran participants will address these issues in the context of Honduran development challenges. The Conference begins only a few months after a new Honduran administration takes office, and we will invite members of the new presidential team and of congress to participate in the Conference. Hondurans and non-Hondurans alike will ask how individual and public efforts to control corruption benefit from an ethic of citizenship and public service.

Principal Sponsors: The International Development Ethics Association (IDEA), a membership organization of development philosophers, scholars, policy makers and practitioners; the Citizen's Forum, a leading Honduran advocacy and civil society group; the National Autonomous University of Honduras, and the University of Maryland.

Participants, Proposals, Papers, and Presentations: We expect a conference of 100-150 participants, with an equal number of Hondurans and non-Hondurans. Abstracts and papers may be in either Spanish or English and should be submitted electronically (if possible) in Microsoft Word. Papers should be no longer than 20 double-spaced (12 point font) pages. Plenary presentations will be 45 minutes, and smaller session presentations will be 15 minutes.

Deadlines and Registration:

- Receipt of paper proposals (200 words) and panel proposals: March 1, 2002
- Decision on proposals: March 15, 2002
- Advance registration for "South" participants (\$15): March 31, 2002
- Advance registration for "North" participants (\$100): March 31, 2002
- Receipt of Conference Papers: April 30, 2002
- Onsite Registration: "South" participants (\$20) and "North" participants (\$150): June 19-22, 2002

Contacts: For additional information or to join IDEA—see (www.carleton.ca/idea/newsletter) or contact David A. Crocker (dc134@umail.umd.edu). Proposals/papers may be submitted electronically to D. Crocker or R. Romero (rrromero@edured.net).

should be seen as enabling a first step in the long over-due collaboration of researchers and policy makers within Africa in understanding the full nature and diverse manifestations, causes and consequences of poverty in a way that

has not been possible before. Anybody interested in pursuing these ideas further is invited to get in touch with me directly.

Francis Wilson, Chair of CROP

(E-mail: fwilson@cssr.uct.ac.za)

WIDER CONFERENCE

The World Institute for Development Economic Research (WIDER), The United Nations University, arranges a conference on "The New Economy in Development" in Helsinki, Finland, May 10-11, 2002.

The conference will review what is presently known about the impacts of the production and/or use of information and communication technology (ICT) on economic growth, productivity, income distribution, wages, employment, the stock market, location of production, organization of work, etc. Contributions documenting and analyzing the New Economy in developing and transition countries will be given special consideration.

For more information contact WIDER, Katajanokanlaituri 6B, 00160 Helsinki, Finland, E-mail: ned@wider.unu.edu, Fax: +358-9-61599333

NEW DAC RELATED BOOK

Negotiating Poverty, edited by Neil Middleton, Phil O'Keefe and Rob Visser, has recently been published. The book is a product of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs expert consultation on the draft *Guidelines on Poverty Reduction*, by the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the OECD.

The book contains reflections on the poverty debate, edited key-papers and selected inputs from the expert consultation. The chapters cover the aims and framework of poverty reduction; the role of the global market; problems of employment; human security; environmental security; legal aspects; and the practical problems of implementation.

For information on how to order the book, contact ETC International, Kastanjelaan 5, P.O. Box 64, 3830 AB Leusden, The Netherlands, E-mail: etcgroup@etcint.org, Fax: +31-33-4940791.

NEW BOOK ON POVERTY

Long time CROP collaborator Blandine Destremau has written the book *Mesures et démesure de la pauvreté* with Pierre Salama. The book argues that since poverty is a multifaceted problem one needs to develop measurements that take into account all the qualitative and quantitative factors surrounding it. The book is published by Presses Universitaires de France (PUF). For ordering information contact: PUF, 6, avenue Reille 75685 Paris Cedex 14, Ph: +33-1-5810-3100, Fax: +33-1-5810-3182, E-mail: marion@puf.com, Web: <http://www.puf.com>.

LIST OF CROP EVENTS
2002-2003

April 2002

23-24: "Poverty and water, with particular reference to Africa South of the Equator". Academic session in co-operation with the University of Natal and in conjunction with the International Social Science Council Executive Committee meeting, Durban, South Africa.

June 2002

19-22: "Poverty, Corruption, and Human Rights: Ethics of Citizenship and Public Service". IDEA 6th International Conference on Ethics and International Development in collaboration with CROP, Honduras.

July 2002

7-13: "Issues in pro-poor policies in non-OECD countries". Joint session with RC19 at the ISA XV World Congress of Sociology, Brisbane, Australia.

November 2002

4-6: "Poverty reducing strategies in the Caribbean - with particular emphasis on external actors and their impact on poverty formation in the area". A joint CROP, CLACSO, Centro de Investigaciones Psicológicas y Sociales (CIPS), and Centro de Investigaciones de la Economía Internacional (CIEI) workshop, Havana, Cuba.

December 2002

9-11: CROP will organise a special session on "Frontiers of poverty research" (preliminary title) at the ISSC 50th Anniversary, Vienna, Austria.

March 2003

"Role of the State in Poverty Reduction V" workshop, Recife, Brazil. A joint CROP, CLACSO and Instituto de Pesquisas Sociais, Fundação Joaquim Nabuco, Brazil, workshop.

HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH
REPORT 2002

The Human Rights Watch's twelfth annual review of human rights practices around the globe addresses developments in 66 countries, covering the period from November 2000 through November 2001. The chapters address thematic concerns and examine significant human rights developments in each particular country; the response of global actors (such as EU, USA and the UN) and various regional organizations; and the freedom of local human rights defenders to conduct their work. The report can be read by visiting <http://www.hrw.org> on Internet. For ordering information one can contact Human Rights Watch, 350 Fifth Avenue, 34th floor New York, NY 10118-3299, USA, Fax: +1-212-736-1300, E-mail: hrwnyc@hrw.org.

CROP IN BRIEF

CROP is a world-wide network of researchers and experts on poverty. The aim of CROP is to establish an arena for interdisciplinary and comparative research on poverty in developed and developing countries. CROP organises regional workshops, symposia and international conferences, promotes joint research projects and publications, links poverty researchers and disseminates information about poverty research, on a non-profit basis. CROP has developed a database on poverty researchers, and documentation of ongoing research.

If you wish to have your name listed in CROPnet, you are welcome to write to the Secretariat and request a copy of the CROP Database Survey form. For further information please contact the CROP Secretariat

Please note: We cannot answer the increased demand for copies of single papers presented at CROP conferences and workshops. However, if you have the patience, most of the papers become available through the publications that follow the conferences and will be duly announced. We still supply the authors addresses, phone & fax numbers.

WEBPAGE FOR CROP

Those who have an Internet connection and a WWW browser programme installed on the computer, find the CROP webpage at <http://www.crop.org> The pages hold general information about CROP, news about past and ongoing activities, as well as the latest CROP newsletter.

AT THE CROP SECRETARIAT
YOU WILL MEET:

Else Øyen, Scientific Director of CROP
Kirsti Thesen Sælen, Co-ordinator
Inge Erling Tesdal, Executive Officer
Einar Braathen, Programme Officer
Asuncion St. Clair, Research Fellow

THE QUOTE

Poverty, in any sense implying human suffering, may be completely extinguished by the wisdom of society, combined with the good sense and providence of individuals

John Stuart Mill
(1806-1873)