

# CROP newsletter

Comparative Research Programme On Poverty

Vol. 10, No. 2, June 2003

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## frontiers of poverty research

### **CROP 10 YEARS ANNIVERSARY 2003**

With this special issue of the Newsletter CROP is marking the celebration of its 10th birthday. As Chairperson of the Scientific Committee of CROP, appointed by the International Social Science Council, it is my happy honour to congratulate CROP on reaching this important milestone and to greet all members of the CROP network spread throughout the world. When Else Øyen and others, with the full support of the ISSC and of UNESCO, started CROP in 1993 they can scarcely have imagined how fruitful their vision would prove to be. For, as the record below shows, the process of organising a global network of scholars focused sharply on the problem of poverty has proved astonishingly successful in harnessing energy around the world, not least in Africa and Latin America. With the creative use of the internet and by means of numerous regional workshops CROP has succeeded not only in drawing in a wide range of younger scholars, but also in stimulating the writing of papers many of which have been published in books each with a particular focus. CROP is not, of course, the only organisation seeking to stimulate debate and research about issues of poverty, but in its short life it has managed, with very limited resources, to make a remarkable impact. Nor would this have been possible without the immense hard work and dedication of the secretariat based in Bergen. But in the final analysis CROP's effectiveness depends on the quality of work done by all those throughout the world who participate in the research

and writing on problems of poverty about which they care passionately. It is to the enhancing of this quality by means of encouragement and debate that CROP is dedicated and for which it exists. May the next ten years prove as fruitful for CROP as its first decade has been.

**Prof. Francis Wilson**

*Chair of CROP Scientific Committee*

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### **10 YEARS TOLD IN STATISTICS**

A glance at the 19361 files of CROP tells the following.

- Until now CROP has organised 40 workshops/conferences in 24 countries
- More than 500 papers have been presented in these workshops
- Those presenting papers come from 71 countries, with 50 countries located in the South
- 14 books plus numerous articles have been produced. The books alone cover 3342 pages of interesting poverty research. 151 authors have contributed with a chapter
- At present the CROP network has 1782 members from 120 countries, out of which 102 are countries in the South or in Eastern Europe

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## Post

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- So far 116 experts have served 1-3 periods as members of the CROP Scientific Committee. Three fourth have come/come from the South or Eastern Europe
- 38 CROP Newsletters have been produced. It means among other things folding and handling 45000 newsletters
- More than 20 public meetings have been organised in the South with an attendance from 2 to 300 people in the audience, but as to the actual numbers attending those meetings, we have lost count.

## CONSULTATION MEETING ON UNESCO POVERTY DOCUMENT

CROP has been commissioned by UNESCO to organise a consultation meeting on the strategy document *Abolishing Poverty Through the International Human Rights Framework: A Strategy of the Sector for Social and Human Sciences (UNESCO)*. The meeting will be held in Bergen June 4-7.

Drawing on its large network CROP has identified experts on poverty research from Africa, Asia, Latin America, The Middle

East and Eastern Europe who will participate in the meeting.

The main focus of the consultation will be on conceptual clarifications, international research, advocacy and pilot projects. A report will be made to UNESCO after the meeting on the conclusions, comments and recommendations offered by the participants.

# The Role of the State in the Struggle against Poverty

18-21 March, in Recife, Pernambuco, Brazil

The Latin American Research Council (CLACSO), CROP and the Joaquim Nabuco Foundation (FJN) met with a group of distinguished academics and specialists to debate the alternatives for the State to act to reduce poverty, inequality and social exclusion. The debate was directed to capture the particularities of these problems in the Latin American and Caribbean region.

The workshop was part of the joint CLACSO/CROP project on "Strengthening Poverty Research and Academic Support to Poverty Reduction Programs in Less Developed Countries and Regions of Latin America and the Caribbean (2001-2004)", and is a follow up of four CROP workshops on "The Role of the State in Poverty Alleviation" held in Gaborone, Botswana, 1997; Cape Town, South Africa, 1998; Amman, Jordan, 1999; and Accra, Ghana, 2000.

Members of the programme committee were **Atilio Boron** (CLACSO, Argentina), **Einar Braathen** (CROP, Norway), **Clovis Cavalcanti** (FJN, Brazil), **Alberto Cimadamore** (CLACSO, Argentina), **Hartley Dean** (London School of Economics, UK), **Anete Brito Ivo** (Federal University of Bahia (UFBA), Brazil), **Marcos Costa Lima**, (Federal University of Pernambuco (UFPE), Brazil), **Cátia Lubambo** (FJN, Brazil), **Paulo Henrique Martins** (UFPE, Brazil), **John McNeish** (CROP, Norway), and **Nazaré Wanderley** (UFPE, Brazil)

**João Paulo de Lima e Silva** (Prefect of the City of Recife) opened the workshop with **Fernando Lyra** (President of FJN), **Jorge Siqueira** (FJN), **Clovis Cavalcanti**, **Alberto Cimadamore**, and **Elisa Reis** (Vice-Chair of CROP), along with representatives from the Ford Foundation, The World Food

Programme (FAO), UNESCO and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC).

Over 40 participants from 12 countries attended the workshop.

The first day was devoted to a round table discussion on "The Challenges of Social Policies in Brazil: The Federal Government's Zero Hunger Programme" and "Participatory Planning: Needs and Beneficiaries".

The following 15 papers were presented and discussed in the workshop:

- *The strategy for the reduction of poverty in post-war Guatemala*, by **Virgílio Álvarez Aragón**, FLACSO, Guatemala.
- *Public employment policies as instruments for the reduction of poverty and inequality in Brazil*, by **Tarcísio Patrício de Araújo & Roberto Alves de Lima**, UFPE, Brazil.
- *Governance, equity, health, and the approach for fighting poverty*, by **Roberto Bazzani**, IDRC, Uruguay.
- *The future that will not arrive: The reduction of poverty from the perspective of the Mexican federal government*, by **Nelson Arteaga Botello**, Autonomous University of the State of Mexico (UNAM).
- *Towards pro-poor governance? Decentralisation and social funds, between global discourses and local forces*, by **Einar Braathen**, CROP, Norway.
- *Privatisation and the poor in low-income economies: The case of India and Bangladesh*, by **Hulya Dagdeviren**, University of Hertfordshire, UK.
- *The global human rights agenda and the (im)possibility of the ethical state*, by **Hartley Dean**, LSE, UK.
- *Public policies and poverty reduction in Argentina, Brazil and Chile: A comparative*

*study*, by **Ted Goertzel**, Rutgers University, USA.

- *Fragile synergies for development: The case of Jardim Oratório SP – Brazil*, by **Rowan Ireland**, La Trobe University, Australia.
- *The control of iniquity: A new state paradigm to focus social policies for fighting poverty in Latin America*, by **Anete Brito Ivo**, UFBA, Brazil.
- *Political sociology of poverty: An inquiry into the patterns of relationship between state and poor since independence*, by **Anand Kumar**, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India.
- *Anti-globalisation and anti-statism from the perspective of post-developmentalism*, by **Paulo Henrique Martins**, UFPE, Brazil.
- *Poverty, policy and 'sleight of hand' in Bolivia and Latin America*, by **John McNeish**, CROP.
- *The fight against poverty in Cuba: Public policies and family strategies*, by **Ernesto D. Chávez Negrín**, Centre for Psychological and Sociological Research (CIPS), Cuba.
- *Poverty, inequality and development: The role of the state in the Cuban experience*, by **Mayra Paula Espina Prieto**, CIPS, Cuba.

At the end of the workshop a public meeting was held where **Atilio Boron**, **Helenilda Cavalcanti**, **Alberto Cimadamore**, **John McNeish**, and **Laura Tavares Soares** (Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ), Brazil) summed up the proceedings and made concluding remarks.

A selection of the papers presented at the workshop will be revised for publication. The editors will be **Alberto Cimadamore**, **Hartley Dean** and **Jorge Siqueira**.

## editorial

Today it is widely accepted that poverty means the denial of human rights, numberless deprivations, insufficient incomes, inequitable access to natural resources, social and economic abandonment, and the impact of scourges such as drugs, crimes, prostitution, violence and corruption. This is the situation of more than half of the world's population.

According to CEPAL<sup>1</sup>, Latin America and the Caribbean have at the beginning of the 21st century more than half of the region's children and adolescents living in poverty. Although some Caribbean countries have a low level of poverty, it has been documented that poverty is growing, spreading, diversifying and intensifying in the region, mainly in urban locations. Women and children are particularly vulnerable.<sup>2</sup>

Since poverty has so many faces, the struggle against it requires a more holistic approach in order to create a sustainable framework for feasible action. In the Caribbean region, an area where colonialists committed genocide, pillaged and exploited (and where the first revolution of slaves in the New World took place), a more effective combination of actors, strategies and participatory action of the people is required. International support is needed, along with a network of scientists with insights, wisdom and sensibility.

The present discourse on poverty must be transformed to cover a wider range of understanding of both the moral and legal ramifications. It has to embrace the search for strategies that reaffirm the application of the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights regarding an effective poverty eradication. Such a discourse also has to enforce the end of armed aggressions against peoples and countries. This is a deplorable waste of funds that should be put to better use in reducing and even eradicating poverty.

In the United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty poor people demand peace, the end of poverty, and the widest respect for human rights. Caribbeans also want to be able to look forward to an era of real social justice.

In order to achieve this goal co-operative bonds between scholars, researchers, policy-makers and the UN system should be enforced. CROP and the Latin American Social Sciences Council (CLACSO) have taken up this challenge, and initiated contact with Caribbean researchers. The first workshop was held in Havana. Another workshop is being prepared in the Dominican Republic. Poverty researchers in the Caribbean are invited to take this opportunity to become part of the CLACSO/CROP programme for Strengthening poverty research and academic support to poverty reduction programs in less developed countries and regions of Latin (continues on page 4)

## CALL FOR PAPERS

CLACSO/CROP/CEDLA Regional Conference

*Work and the Production of Poverty in Latin America and the Caribbean: Structures, Discourses and Actors*

To strengthen the regional perspective in poverty research- and with a comparative research focus on the least developed countries of the region- the Latin American Council of Social Sciences (CLACSO), CROP and the Centre for Work and Agricultural Development (CEDLA) will hold the regional conference "Work and the Production of Poverty in Latin America and the Caribbean: Structures, Discourses and Actors" in the city of Santa Cruz, Bolivia on the 14th -16th April 2004.

In a new era where the social seems to be an appendix to the economic, the majority of poverty reduction programmes are subordinated to the global scheme of accumulation. As a result, research on the characteristics of poverty dominate, while the processes underlying the deterioration of the quality of life amongst the majority of the population in our societies remain largely neglected. In response to this problem this event will bring together scholars from diverse areas of knowledge with the intention of analysing and discussing the processes of social inequality and poverty production and with the aim of exploring difficulties and possibilities for effective and applied poverty reduction.

Given the persisting conditions of inequality and the rising number of registered unemployed in Latin America and the Caribbean, specific emphasis will be given in the conference to the study of the connections between work and poverty production. Work as a source of regular income and as an important basis for identity and social integration is emerging as a crucial factor to explain the structural causes of persisting poverty. As such it is a key issue to consider in the formation of public policy aimed at the reduction of poverty. Focus will be given to public policy and the different social actors involved in the reconfiguration of social relations and economic distribution in Latin America and the Caribbean. To this end some of the key questions that will be discussed at the event are:

- What are the relationships between poverty production and economic production?
- What is the actual role of work in economic structures, in social relations and power in the region and their relation to the production and reduction of poverty?
- How should work be conceptualised in terms of providing a basis on which effective public policy can be designed in order to fight poverty?
- What changes in the world of work act as scenarios for and against the mobilisation of social actors against poverty.

The workshop will be limited to 30 participants. Preference will be given to scholars from Latin America, but scholars from other areas are also invited. All participants will be expected to take part in the proceedings (English or Spanish), either presenting or 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 (researchers from Latin America and the Caribbean will be prioritized), and the relevance, quality and originality of the abstract/paper. Details on how to apply for travel grants will be forwarded to those authors whose abstracts are accepted for the workshop. As a rule, accommodation will be covered for all participants during the workshop.

### THE DEADLINE FOR ABSTRACTS IS OCTOBER 1

The abstract should include: the title of the proposed paper and a summary of the main theme or argument. The summary should indicate theory, methods and findings of your proposed paper, and should not exceed ONE PAGE (A4). IMPORTANT: A brief CV along with a list of your most recent publications should accompany the abstract. Please state clearly your name, title, nationality, full postal and e-mail address, telephone and fax numbers. The abstract and CV should be sent (preferably by E-mail) to the address mentioned below.

Participants will be notified by November 1 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 February 1, 2004).

Fabiana Werthein, CLACSO, Av. Callao 875, 3ro. E, CPC1023AAB, Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires, Argentina, Fax: +54-11-4812-8459, E-mail: [fabiana@clacso.edu.ar](mailto:fabiana@clacso.edu.ar)

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America and the Caribbean and provide an intellectual input that bring the Caribbean experience up front.

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Notes:

(1) The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean.

(2) Aurelio Alonso (2002) *La pobreza vista en tres escalas*. Paper presented at the "Poverty reducing strategies in the Caribbean" workshop organised in Havana, Cuba, November 2002, by CROP, CLACSO, Centro de Investigaciones Psicológicas y Sociales (CIPS) and Centro de Investigaciones de la Economía Internacional (CIEI).

## CROP ANNUAL REPORT 2002 AND PLAN OF ACTION 2003-04

The CROP Annual Report 2002 and Plan of Action 2003-04 has now been published. The Annual Report contains in depth description of CROPs scientific activities last year: Research projects; Workshops, Publications, and Networking. The Plan of Action details CROPs activities over the next two years.

The report can be accessed and downloaded from the CROP webpage at <http://www.crop.org/publications/annual.htm>

## PALESTINIAN DEVELOPMENT RESOURCE LIBRARY

The Birzeit University Development Studies Programme (DSP) is a research programme in development studies that aims to link scientific and theoretical concepts with the process of political decision-making.

The DSP has established a centre for development resources which includes a library and information unit. The centre is being expanded to become a repository for written and audio-visual references, reports, and documents that examine development issues on the local, regional and international levels. The centre has now launched an online database at <http://home.birzeit.edu/dsp/DSPNEW/profile/DRC/index.htm> where material can be accessed.

Those interested to participate in adding to the library should contact: Development Studies Programme, Birzeit University, Ramallah Office, P.O. Box 1878, Ramallah, Palestine. Tel: +972-2-2959250, Fax: +972-2-2958117, E-mail: [dsp@birzeit.edu](mailto:dsp@birzeit.edu)

## LIST OF CROP EVENTS 2003/2004

June 2003

4-7: Consultation meeting on the UNESCO document *Abolishing Poverty Through the International Human Rights Framework: Toward an Integrated Strategy*, Bergen, Norway.

June 2003

14-15: *Poverty and Social Deprivation in the Mediterranean Area*. A joint CROP and Department of Social Administration of Democritus University of Thrace workshop in Komotini, Greece.

October 2003

23-24: *Politics and poverty reduction*. A conference organised by the Norwegian Institute for Urban and Regional Research (NIBR) in co-operation with CROP and the National Network on Local Politics and Development (LPD), Oslo, Norway. The Annual Conference of the Norwegian Association for Development Research (NFU).

November 2003

24-26: *Law and Poverty V*. A joint CROP and the Social Science Academy of Nigeria workshop in Abuja, Nigeria.

April 2004

14-16: *Work and the Production of Poverty in Latin America and the Caribbean: Structure, Discourse and Actors*. A joint CROP, CLACSO and Centre for Development and Agricultural Studies (CEDLA) workshop in Bolivia. See page 3 for details.

## BOOK ON GLOBALIZATION

*Limits to globalization*, edited by Stephan Leibfried and Elmar Rieger, has been published by Polity Press.

The book focuses on the need to understand developments in welfare and social provision alongside the processes of globalization. Drawing on case studies from Germany, USA and East Asia, the book argues that the cultural differences shape a welfare state's capacity to mitigate the effects of globalization.

To order the book contact Marston Book Services, PO Box 269, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 4YN, UK, Tel: +44 (0)1235 465550, Fax: +44 (0)1235 465555 or visit the Polity Press website at <http://www.polity.co.uk/ordering.asp>

## 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, can find the CROP webpage at [www.crop.org](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  
**John McNeish**, Lat. Am. Co-ordinator/  
 Researcher  
**Inge Erling Tesdal**, Executive Officer  
**Hege Aarethun**, Executive Officer

## IF YOU NO LONGER LOVE US, PLEASE LEAVE US!

CROP is saving on everything, including paper and stamps. If you no longer read the CROP newsletter, just return it marked "not interested", and your address will be deleted from the mailing list.