

CROP newsletter

Comparative Research Programme On Poverty

Vol. 11, No. 2, May 2004

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THE ETHICS OF DEVELOPMENT

Why is there now a field of work called development ethics, starting with L-J. Lebrét in the 1950s, continuing through Denis Goulet and Amartya Sen, to currently Thomas Pogge, Ananta Giri and others? What sorts of issues and problems have led to it? First have been the perceived feasibility of reducing and removing extreme poverty and the moral urgency of doing so, given the suffering and life-restriction which such poverty brings and its typically undeserved and inescapable nature for the persons concerned. Added to this are a series of concerns beyond conventional poverty reduction (raising incomes), that reflect the widening scope of the concept of 'development' over the past fifty years: the central importance of health yet the enormous scale of sickness; the importance of peace and security yet the frequency of violence, often planned; the unbalanced distribution of the costs of change and the frequency of processes of impoverishment, particularly involving infliction of the main costs upon the weak; the rapid and perhaps even fatally accelerating despoliation of the natural environment; the questions of upon whom do obligations fall, and what ethical statuses attach to national boundaries and to differences between cultures; and the importance of sources of meaning yet the spread of meaninglessness and of searches for meaning in ways that involve aggression towards others.

'Development ethics' looks at interpretations of societal 'development' in the broad sense of progress or desirable change, at the types, distribution and significance of the costs and

gains from major socio-economic change, and at value-conscious ways of thinking about and choosing between alternative paths and destinations. It aims to help in identifying and making ethical choices about societal 'development', including through identifying and assessing the ethical concepts and theories implied.

There are many relevant foci in a treatment of development ethics, in part because the term 'development' is used in fundamentally distinct ways: - long-term economic growth and change; societal progress; planned intervention; what happens in the world's 'South'; or what agencies in or from the world's 'North' do to, with and in the South. One could validly focus on the professional ethics of planned interventions and development cooperation, or on theories and approaches concerning human rights, including economic, social and cultural rights. My book *The Ethics of Development - From economism to human development* (Edinburgh University Press, 2004) gives priority to what is meant by development as improvement. Its central thread concerns the reassessment of economic growth and its supersession as lead policy criterion, intellectually though not yet so much in practice, by a self-consciously normative and more deeply theorized conception of 'human development'.

The first half of the book provides a critique of 'economism', the ideas that most of life should be understood, valued and managed in terms of economic calculation, that there is a separate and foundational economic sphere, 'the economy', which must be run according to its supposed universal technical requirements,

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and/or that economic growth is the essence of development. We should not equate development, in the sense of societal improvement, with economic growth and its social concomitants, which are better described as 'modernization'. Descriptive concepts such as industrialization or economic growth should be kept separate from a normative interpretation of development, so that we can normatively assess any particular case of industrialization, economic growth or modernization. We need for example to examine the possible relationships of violence and insecurity to economic growth and modernization. I give special attention to two concepts whose standard usage sustains the mis-identification of 'development' with growth of economic activity: 'effectiveness' and—especially when (mis-)defined to only include measures of economic impact—'efficiency'. 'Equity' is often objectionably treated as a merely subjective concern outside, and in contrast to, 'efficiency', and then left invisible, like people. Various aspects of equity demand attention, as each a different face of equality and thus of respect for human dignity, each with its own legitimate claims in at least some circumstances.

The second half of the book examines the normative theories around 'human development'. Ideas of human needs and basic needs underlie many concepts of development and equity. Basic needs theory of the 1970s has been upgraded by concepts formed by Sen and the in certain ways deeper work by Len Doyal, Ian Gough and others. Important siblings or successors of needs ethics are: UNDP's work on 'Human Development', which uses Sen's capability approach; Sen's generalization of such ideas into a philosophy of 'development as freedom'; and Martha Nussbaum's richer capabilities ethic based on a fuller theory of human personality. These all indicate a core of some universal basic human priorities and a shared framework for a substantial part of ethical discourse. They support the view in human rights discourse that there are some defensible (humanly) universal moral constraints also in prioritizing beyond a level of basic material needs. But they also give space for major variation between cases and cultures: in operationalizing basic priorities, in prioritizing for beyond a basic level, and in some cases in interpreting what is basic.

The book aims to be a self-contained introduction for students, professionals and general readers. It discusses methods and provides illustrations, discussion questions and reading suggestions. The emphasis is on probing and clarifying key concepts, and partnering this by examination of

WORK AND THE PRODUCTION OF POVERTY IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Workshop organized by CROP, CLACSO and Centro de Estudios para el Desarrollo Laboral y Agrario (CEDLA) in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, 14-16 April. The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) and UNESCO sponsored the workshop.

The workshop was planned by an academic programme committee consisting of **Alberto Cimadamore** (CLACSO), **Ivonne Farah** (Universidad Mayor de San Andrés (UMSA), Bolivia), **Sian Lazar** (Centre for Latin American Studies, University of Cambridge, UK), **John McNeish** (CROP), **Lourdes Montero** (CEDLA), and **Julio César Neffa** (Consejo de Investigaciones Científicas y Técnicas (CONICET), Argentina).

The following papers were presented:

Session 1: Ciudadanía, pobreza y trabajo [Citizenship, poverty and work]

- *Los discursos minimalistas sobre las necesidades básicas y los umbrales de ciudadanía como reproductores de la pobreza*, **Sonia Álvarez**, Universidad nacional de Salta, Argentina.
- *Consecuencias del agotamiento y erosión del capital social sobre la precariedad e informalidad del empleo en miembros de hogares de asentamientos precarios*, **Ana Lourdes Suárez**, CONICET, Argentina.
- *Disciplinamiento, políticas públicas y valorización del capital. La economía política de las políticas contra la pobreza y la desigualdad*, **Mariano Féliz**, CONICET, Argentina.

Session 2: Precarización del trabajo y pobreza [The danger of unemployment and poverty]

- *La expansión de soja transgénica como productora de pobreza en Paraguay*, **Ramón Foguel**, CERI, Paraguay.
- *El oro verde: agricultura de exportación y pobreza rural en México. El caso de los*

contexts and cases, including from famine and other emergencies, land alienation and land reform, industrialization and international debt.

Development ethics can be seen variously as an academic sub-discipline or interdisciplinary field; as a field of professional ethics, comparable to business ethics, medical ethics and so on; or, probably of most relevance and importance, as a forum for serious reflection (including feeling), on a broader scale than implied in the traditional model of professional ethics: amongst development policy-makers, planners, practitioners and activists, and their major clients, and amongst academics and students. It uncovers the issue of costs and who bears them, and places the burden of justification

cortadores de aguacate en Michoacán, **Rosalía López Paniagua**, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México.

- *La reforma laboral y la política social en el Perú de los noventa: del universalismo corporativo a la selectividad del residuo*, **Julio Gamero Requena**, Centro de Estudios y Promoción del Desarrollo, Perú.
- *Producción y salarios: una explicación de la pobreza*, **Efrain Huanca Quisbert**, CEDLA, Bolivia.

Session 3: Entre lo global y lo local. [Between the global and the local]

- *La producción de la pobreza en el Perú y algunas propuestas de reconfiguración laboral a partir de lo local y lo global*, **Carlota Casalino Sen**, Centro de Investigación Parlamentaria, Perú.
- *El Periplo del Trabajo en la Zona Metropolitana del Valle de Toluca: del desarrollo interno a la economía global*, **Nelson Arteaga Botello**, El Colegio Mexiquense A. C., México.
- *Segregação residencial e segmentação: o "efeito vizinhança" na reprodução da pobreza nas metrópoles brasileiras*, **Luiz César de Queiroz Ribeiro**, Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro, Brasil.
- *Los pobladores de los asentamientos urbanos empobrecidos y su inserción laboral en la economía urbana de la ciudad*, **Oscar Augusto López Rivera**, Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales (FLACSO), Guatemala.

Session 4: De exclusiones y otras desigualdades [Exclusions and other inequalities]

- *Viejas y nuevas desigualdades: desafío para las políticas sociales urbanas. La visión de los actores locales en tres ciudades uruguayas*, **Ana Laura Rivoir**, Universidad de la República, Uruguay.
- *Relaciones de reciprocidad en el trabajo: una estrategia para los más pobres*, **Celine**

on those who advocate paths which involve further suffering for poor people now. It investigates conflicting values, priorities, unintended effects, and policy alternatives. Some of these roles match what some economists traditionally saw as their contribution, but they are undertaken now with attention to a broader range of methods and human values. And it provides us with a repertoire of evidence, testimony, frameworks and insights. It can contribute to illuminating choices in development and, let us hope, towards building more democratic and humane national and global politics.

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Geffroy, Taller de Estudios Sociales, Bolivia.

- *Empobrecimiento y exclusión social*, **José Inocente Rodríguez López**, Universidad Centroamericana, Nicaragua.
- *Trabajo infantil, legislación y pobreza: un estudio exploratorio*, **Ana Gabriela Contreras García**, FLACSO, Guatemala.

Session 5: Trabajo, pobreza y políticas públicas en Bolivia [Work, poverty and public policy in Bolivia]

- *Políticas Públicas y lucha contra la pobreza*, **Ivonne Farah**, Universidad Mayor de San Andrés, CIDES, Bolivia.
- *Pobreza y descentralización en Bolivia*, **Peter Cronkleton**, Centro Internacional para la Investigación Forestal Cobija, Bolivia.
- *Apertura comercial y productores campesinos en Bolivia*, **Mamerto Pérez**, CEDLA, Bolivia.
- *Pequeños productores en los mercados locales de La Paz y El Alto*, **Fernanda Wanderley**, Universidad de la Cordillera La Paz y Universidad Mayor de San Andrés, CIDES, Bolivia.
- *¿Globalmente integradas ero más pobres?: Modelo exportador y trabajo femenino*, **Lourdes Montero**.

A public meeting was held in conjunction with the workshop. Alberto D. Cimadamore, Julio César Neffa and Silvia Escóbar de Pabón (CEDLA) took part in the panel.

editorial

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THE UN MILLENNIUM GOALS AND THE FIGHT AGAINST POVERTY

As widely documented by a number of studies (including the HDR 2003), the last decade was a "decade of despair" for half of the world population. Recent trends in social development have been equally disappointing, not only vis-à-vis the rhetoric of world leaders but also in respect to the goals and international commitments that were agreed upon in the millennium summit. The UN millennium goals set a target for a massive reduction of poverty worldwide. Yet if there is to be any realistic prospect of fulfilling these goals, an overhaul of policies and perceptions by major global actors is required so as to link poverty reduction

with increasing empowerment of poor countries, regions and social groups.

If the responsibility for the millennium development goals rests primarily with the international financial organizations, who manage the largest part of resources for poverty reduction, it is highly likely that the goals will be distorted. The UN could assume a leading role in the fight against poverty, if the voices of the poor could be strengthened in its constitutive bodies (supporters of a global social-democratic programme have persistently argued in favour of greater democratisation of the UN, reforms to make the Bretton Woods institutions more accountable and other ambitious changes). However, such a scenario does not seem realistic. The recent initiatives by the UN Secretary General (e.g. the «Global Compact for the Millennium Project»), to create a platform for policy development, sidesteps existing UN institutions and practices (like, for instance, the UN Economic and Social Council). A number of task forces and issue-specific projects encourage a variety of ad hoc networks, partnerships and informal types of collaboration between international organizations, enterprises, NGOs, and other (national and inter-national) civil society agencies, with the aim to manage the millennium goals. These arrangements are held to promote a loose consensus, an open-style of coordination and voluntary regulation through social benchmarking, cross-national policy transfer and lesson drawing.

Some researchers foresee in these ad hoc "Global Issues Networks" a new perspective in global social regulation, though a less radical one than expected from a global social reformist stance. However, what is at issue here is whether a value-reference point for these collaboration strategies could be forged that would shift global governance away from the neoliberal ideology and practice towards issues of equality, equity and democracy. Existing conditions hardly justify optimism. Nevertheless, one could possibly argue that policy alliances initiated by some specialized UN social agencies (ILO, UNDP, UNESCO, WHO)—which exhibit a better understanding of the socio-economic and political dimensions of poverty and social deprivation—are more likely to contribute, in the long run, to the build-up of the required preconditions for global social regulation than networks under the control of the international financial organizations.

CALL FOR NEW ENTRIES

REVISION OF THE CROP INTERNATIONAL GLOSSARY ON POVERTY

In 1999 CROP published the first English version of *The International Glossary on Poverty* in the series "CROP International Studies in Poverty Research" with Zed Books (London and New York), IPSR Books (Cape Town), The University Press (Dhaka) and White Lotus (Bangkok). The book was written with the aim of providing an authoritative guide to the technical terms used in contemporary scholarly research on poverty. The book also aims to sensitise researchers, students and policy-makers working in a variety of disciplines to the complexities of the issues relating to the subject of poverty.

Time has come to update the Glossary with new definitions of poverty as well as those overlooked in the past. We are particularly interested in including definitions from outside the established Western definitions of poverty.

Following publication of the English version of the Glossary and the interest it generated amongst Latin American scholars it has been decided that an updated Spanish version of the Glossary shall also be published. A translation of the original text to Spanish has already been made and entries from Latin America will be particularly welcome.

You are all invited to take part in the updating and renewal of this important tool in poverty research.

Please send any poverty definition you may deem appropriate to CROP (E-mail: crop@uib.no) followed by a short note with one or more references as to where the definition has been used. The current scope of the Glossary is wide, and contributors may consult it to identify which topics ought to be included, and which might be dealt with better. If you are unaware as to whether the definition you have in mind is already included in the Glossary, advice can be obtained from the editors. Please be aware that the Glossary is a collective work and contributions are not the work of single named authors.

The previous editors Dr. **David Gordon** (E-mail: Dave.Gordon@bristol.ac.uk) and Dr. **Paul Spicker** (E-mail: p.spicker@rgu.ac.uk) have kindly agreed to be the editors of the new revised edition of the Glossary.

All those submitting entries will take part in a prize draw of 5 packages containing all the latest CROP publications.

NEW POVERTY RESEARCH PROJECTS IN CROP DATABASE

Members of CROP network of poverty researchers send information about their on-going research. The following projects are the latest additions to the CROP database:

Africa:

- Economic development of Algeria: The paradox of unemployment
- Water management and poverty in Algeria: The case region of Tlemcen
- Partnership between agribusiness and peasants: Impacts on rural development (Madagascar)
- Bridging research and policy: Malawi's Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP)
- Impact of trade liberalisation on poverty in Malawi
- Social capital, local government and poverty reduction [in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa]
- Informal markets and urban development in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania
- Tracking study of primary education in Tanzania

Asia:

- Inequality and targeting indices [in Iran]
- Rural poverty and NGO intervention [in Kuttanad, Kerala, India]
- Multiparty accountability for environmentally sustainable industrial development: The challenge of active citizenship [in Chiplun, Maharashtra, India]
- Poverty dimensions of large scale irrigation projects in India
- Poverty and rural development in Sri Lanka
- Economic psychology of the poor in Malaysia

Latin and Central America:

- Causes of poverty in Mexico
- Microenterprise as a development strategy in poverty reduction [in Guatemala City]
- Poverty, inequality and social capital in Central America
- Political economy of poverty reduction strategies: A case study of the HIPC initiative in Latin America

Europe:

- Parenting in multi-racial Britain
- "The Belgrade Favalla" - Socio-spatial Functions of Belgrade in the Last Two Decades of Self-Management System Regarding Urban Poverty and Quality of Life.

Contact the CROP secretariat if you want further information about the projects listed.

LIST OF CROP EVENTS 2004-2005

September 2004

20-22: *Poverty in the Light of the Informal Economy*. Workshop to be held in Alexandria, Egypt. Jointly organised by CROP and the Center for Economic and Financial Research and Studies, Cairo University.

September/October 2004

30.09-01.10: *Education, Knowledge and Development*. The annual conference of the Norwegian Association for Development Research (NFU). CROP co-organises the conference, which will be held in Bergen, Norway.

November 2004

22-26: Workshop under the CLACSO/CROP programme, together with Facultad Latinoamericana De Ciencias Sociales (FLACSO), Costa Rica, and Universidad Centro-Americana, Nicaragua. See the enclosed *Call for papers* document for more information.

January 2005

Law and Poverty VI. Workshop co-organized with Centre for International and Comparative Labour and Social Security Law (CICLASS), in Johannesburg, South Africa. See the enclosed *Call for papers* document for more information.

2005

Workshop in co-operation with the Science Academy of the Dominican Republic. Date and topic to be decided.

NEW PUBLICATION ABOUT URBAN POVERTY

Earthscan has published *Empowering Squatter Citizen - Local Government, Civil Society and Urban Poverty Reduction*, edited by **Diana Mitlin** and **David Satterthwaite**.

The book argues that national governments and aid agencies working in Africa, Asia and Latin America need to address local changes to deal with the rapid growth in urban poverty: most cities in these areas now have 30 to 60 percent of their population living in shanty towns.

For more information about the book visit: <http://www.earthscan.co.uk/>, or contact: Earthscan, 8-12 Camden High Street, London, NW10JH, UK, Tel: +44-(0)20-7387-8558, Fax: +44-(0)20-7387-8998, E-mail: earthinfo@earthscan.co.uk

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 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. The site holds 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!

The CROP Secretariat is saving on everything, including paper and postage. Please let us know if you no longer wish to receive the CROP newsletter or if you want to receive it by E-mail only.