

CROP newsletter

Comparative Research Programme On Poverty

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contents

Page 1

CROP Scientific Committee 2005-2006

Page 2

Editorial

by Lourdes Arizpe

Call for papers: ICAS-4 panel

CROP/CODESRIA Collaboration

Page 3

Law and Poverty VI workshop

New CROP Co-ordinator for Latin American Activities

CROP Papers Translated to Portuguese

Page 4

New Poverty Research Projects in Database

Events 2005

Notices

CROP SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE 2005-2006

The CROP Scientific Committee 2005-2006 was appointed by the ISSC General Assembly.

Members of the Scientific Committee are found among well known scholars in the field of poverty research, representing at least 3 disciplines within the major regions of the world. The members serve in their personal capacity and not as representatives of organisations. The Committee oversees the scientific activities of CROP.

The new Committee has the following members:

- *Chair* **Francis Wilson**, University of Cape Town, South Africa.
- *Vice-Chair* **Maria Petmesidou**, Democritus University of Thrace, Greece.
- *Vice-Chair* **Elisa Reis**, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
- **Abderrezak Benhabib**, Tlemcen University, Algeria.
- **Alicia Ziccardi Contigiani**, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México.
- **Layi Erinosh**, Social Science Academy of Nigeria.
- **Paul Hunt**, University of Essex, UK.
- **Leif Jensen**, The Pennsylvania State University, USA.
- **Karima Korayem**, Al Azhar University, Egypt.

- **Santosh Mehrotra**, UNDP, Thailand.
- **Adebayo O. Olukoshi**, Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA), Senegal.
- **Yolanda Ricardo**, Centro de Estudios de América, Cuba.
- **Peter Saunders**, University of New South Wales, Australia.
- **Mohammad Shafi**, Aligarh Muslim University, India.
- **Arjun Sengupta**, Harvard School of Public Health, USA.
- **Carlos Sojo**, Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales (FLACSO), Costa Rica.
- **Du Xiaoshang**, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS).

Honorary member

- **Amartya Sen**, Trinity College, UK.

Scientific Director

- **Else Øyen**, University of Bergen, Norway.

Legal Adviser

- **Willem van Genugten**, Tilburg University, The Netherlands.

CROP wants to thank the outgoing members for all their valuable help and support and welcomes the new Committee. We look forward to working with you to further develop the agenda of poverty research worldwide.

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NEW CROP CO-ORDINATOR FOR LATIN AMERICAN ACTIVITIES

M.Sc. **Hans Egil Offerdal** who worked as CROP co-ordinator from 1996 to 1999 has taken over as CROP co-ordinator for Latin American activities.

Offerdal received his education in humanities and social sciences from the University of Bergen, Norway, and at Universidad Centroamericana José Simeón Cañas (UCA) in El Salvador. He has been tenured researcher in Communication and in Theology in the Department of Communication, ITESM-CEM, since August 2002.

A major part of Offerdal's work will be devoted to the organisation of the CLACSO (Consejo Latinoamericano de Ciencias Sociales/The Latin American Social Science Council) and CROP programme *Strengthening poverty research and academic support to poverty reduction programs in less developed countries and regions of Latin America and the Caribbean.*

CROP PAPERS TRANSLATED TO PORTUGUESE

CARE Brazil has offered to translate and reproduce papers produced by CROP to Portuguese.

The translated papers will be made available on CARE Brazil's website at: <http://www.care.org.br>

LAW AND POVERTY VI

The workshop was organized by CROP and the Centre for International and Comparative Labour and Social Security Law (CICLASS) at the University of Johannesburg, South Africa, 26-28 January.

The academic programme committee consisted of Prof. **Marius Olivier** (Director, CICLASS), Prof. **Layi Erinosh** (Social Science Academy of Nigeria), Prof. **Edwin Kaseke** (University of Zimbabwe) and Prof. **Lucy Williams** (Northeastern University, USA).

The workshop forms part of a CROP programme on *Law and Poverty* with workshops held every two years. This was the sixth such event in the series and the second time it was held in Africa.

The aim of the workshop was to investigate and deliberate on how law can contribute to effectively address and reduce poverty, from the perspective of social protection, in sub-Saharan Africa. The focus was the areas of social welfare (i.e. social assistance) and social insurance, as a means to bring about meaningful and sustainable poverty reduction within the context of social protection. The workshop was meant to be an initiative for social development in sub-Saharan African countries, and its contribution towards fulfilling the NEPAD objectives.

The workshop brought participants from sub-Saharan Africa together with scholars from other parts of the world, to consider how law can better contribute to dealing with poverty in the regional context.

Prof. **Derek van der Merwe** (Vice-Rector, Research and Academic Management, University of Johannesburg), Prof. **Marius Olivier** and Prof. **Francis Wilson** (Chair of CROP), opened the workshop.

The following papers were presented:

Session 1: Genderised Perspectives on Social Security

- *Protection of Women's Employment and Health/Reproductive Rights in the Shariah Legal Systems of Sokoto and Zamfara States of Northern Nigeria* by **Fatima Adamu**, Department of Sociology, Usmanu DanFodiyo University, Sokoto, Nigeria.
- *Law, Gender and the Feminization of Poverty: A case study of Nigeria and Ghana* by **Ronke Iyabowale Ako-Nai**, Department of International Relations, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria.
- *Emergencia de actores sociales étnicos y la reivindicación de la ciudadanía* by **Chloe Hardy**, **Anneke Meerkotter** and **Marlise Richter**, Centre for Applied Legal Studies, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa.

Session 2: Children and Social Security

- *Does the 'means' Justify the End? Targeting Social Grants for Poverty Relief in South Africa: A Rights-based case study Analysis of the Means Test for the Child Support Grant* by **Solange Rosa**, Children's Institute, University of Cape Town, South Africa.
- *Gender and the Right to Social Security: A case study of South Africa's Child Support Grant* by **Beth Goldblatt**, Centre for Applied Legal Studies, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa.
- *The Utilisation of the Social Security Rights of Children to Alleviate Poverty in South Africa* by **Linda Jansen van Rensburg**, Centre for Applied Legal Studies, Law Faculty of the North-West University (Potchefstroom Campus), South Africa (paper presented by **Debra Hosten**).

Session 3: Social Exclusion

- *Are the Current Forms of Social Protection Programmes well adapted to deal with Problems of Social Exclusion in Malawi?* by **Nations Sungambuto Msowoya**, Ministry of Finance, Malawi.
- *Social Exclusion as a Basis for Poverty: the*

Case of People living with Disabilities in Botswana by **Layi Erinosh**, Social Science Academy of Nigeria, Abuja, Nigeria.

Session 4: Utilising the law as a tool to regulate and extend social security coverage

- *Systematising Social Security Law as a means to Extending Access to Social Security in South Africa* by **George Mpedi**, Max Planck Institute for Foreign and International Social Law, Munich, Germany.
- *Issues and Challenges in addressing Poverty and Legal Rights: A Comparative USA and South African analysis* by **Lucy Williams**, Northeastern University School of Law, Boston, USA.
- *South Africa's Expanded Public Works Programme in Comparison with Employment creation mechanisms in India's Five Year Plans* by **Avinash Govindjee**, University of Port Elizabeth, Port Elizabeth, South Africa.
- *International Benchmarking and Regional Standard-setting in Social Security: Perspectives from South Africa* by **Marius Olivier**, CICLASS.
- *Law and Poverty Relief: Inscripting People's Struggles into Social Security Rights* by **Naudé Malan**, Department of Anthropology and Development, University of Johannesburg, South Africa.
- *The Rights-based Approach to Social Assistance: the case of Zimbabwe* by **Edwin Kaseke**, University of Zimbabwe.
- *Promoting Comprehensive Social Security in Developing Countries: Some Lessons in Comparative Law-making* by **Debi S. Saini**, Management Development Institute, Gurugram, Haryana, India.
- *Co-operatives as a form of Social Security Intervention for Poverty Alleviation in South Africa* by **M. H. Kanyane**, University of the North, Turfloop Graduate School of Leadership, South Africa.

editorial

Lourdes Arizpe

President

International Social Science Council

HOW WILL POOR PEOPLE FUND RESEARCH?

In the early nineties, when Else Øyen, as Vice-President of the International Social Science Council made a determined effort to create an international research program on poverty, this issue was only one among many on the international agenda for development. Today, poverty is without question the first priority in the search for policies to revert the trends of unequal globalization, failed or failing states, and social fragmentation.

At the U.N. meeting to assess the ten-year results of the Social Development Summit of 1995, held in New York in February 2005, the reports were mixed. Poverty had been reduced mainly in East and South Asia, but it has practically remained the same in other regions and has in fact deepened in some of them. (This is producing more inequality in world regional development, with one region, Central and Eastern Europe suffering a regression in life expectancy, fertility and other demographic indicators as well as educational and employment conditions.)

As a result, for the first time, at the electronic town hall meeting held at the Global Economic Forum on January 27, 2005, **poverty** was declared the first and most urgent concern in world affairs. Yet the solutions being proposed by the Bretton Woods institutions are still the same, they are applied piecemeal and have evidently led to few results. Once more, the international community is running around asking for proposals to help alleviate or reduce poverty.

For many years, the Social Forum had, indeed, been placing poverty as the most important problem that an alternative, human perspective of globalization has to take up and, in fact, so many of their participants come from the most vulnerable groups in the world.

They should just look at CROP. This program has quietly but firmly been accumulating knowledge, tools and world networks on poverty research. The list of its activities reads like a prime agenda on poverty issues: knowledge as the key word for poverty reduction, looking at law, politics, the role of the state, international actors and elite perceptions; the demography of poverty; its relation to social deprivation, gender and indigenous issues; and best practices in poverty reduction. Most importantly, the building of tools to facilitate comparative poverty research have also been highlighted. One must

CALL FOR PAPERS

CROP and South Asia Studies Centre, University of Rajasthan, India, organises a panel on

Poverty Reduction Practice and Reassertion of Sub-nationalist Identities in the Post-Colonial Asia

at the International Convention of Asia Scholars 4 (ICAS-4), hosted by the Shanghai Academy for Social Sciences, in Shanghai, China, August 20-24, 2005

Interested scholars are invited to submit paper proposals for the panel to ICAS Secretariat, International Institute for Asian Studies, P.O. Box 9515, 2300 RA Leiden, THE NETHERLANDS, Tel: +31-71-527-2227, Fax: +31-71-527-4162, E-mail: icas@let.leidenuniv.nl Please also send a copy of your paper proposal to the CROP Secretariat by E-mail: crop@uib.no

THE DEADLINE FOR PAPER PROPOSALS IS JUNE 1, 2005

Do not send hard copies of the paper. It should be submitted by E-mail in either Rich Text Format (RTF) or PDF (when special fonts or diacritics are used) or on a floppy disc or CD-ROM by snailmail to the ICAS Secretariat.

For details about registration, VISAs, travel grants and other practical information relating to the convention refer to <http://www.sass.org.cn/icas4> and <http://www.icassecretariat.org> on Internet.

CROP/CODESRIA COLLABORATION

The Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA) is established in Dakar, Senegal, as a leading multidisciplinary centre of social science research on the African continent.

CODESRIA and CROP have signed a **Memorandum of Understanding** to collaborate on a joint initiative to further comparative poverty research in Africa, by facilitating research, capacity-building and publication activities on poverty in Africa.

Since 2000 CROP has collaborated with CLACSO (Consejo Latinoamericano de Ciencias Sociales/The Latin American Social Science Council) on the programme *Strengthening poverty research and academic support to poverty reduction programs in less developed countries and regions of Latin America and the Caribbean*. Workshops on poverty topics of relevance for the region are carried out twice a year, virtual courses are offered, junior and senior stipends are allocated based on competition, publications are forthcoming, new networks are erected and Latin American scholars in poverty research are promoted and invited to arenas where expertise on poverty is in focus. This co-operation has been very successful and CODESRIA and CROP consider this model as useful for future co-operation also in Africa.

For more information about CODESRIA visit their website at <http://www.codesria.org/>

indeed congratulate the team at the University of Bergen and the hundreds of researchers around the world involved in CROP.

As for the future, at the U.N. meeting of the Commission on Economic and Social Affairs reviewing Copenhagen plus Ten, as President of International Social Science Council I asked two questions: why is it that social risks are NEVER mentioned in the world agenda alongside those having to do with economics, environment and health and so on. The

second, if social science research is, as proposed by some institutions, to be funded only through the market, how are poor and vulnerable people going to be able to fund the research they need to take away the obstacles to their development?

That CROP has been keeping in the forefront of these discussions, under the determined leadership of Else Øyen, is indeed a source of great satisfaction for the International Social Science Council.

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:

- Conceptualizing migration opportunities [in Kenya].
- Poverty and HIV/AIDS: Risky behaviour among the poor in Nigeria.

Asia:

- Multidimensional Approach to Poverty [in Nepal].
- Analysis of the effects of subsidy reduction on poverty and inequality in Iranian economy.

Latin and Central America:

- Escaping from poverty: Characteristics and strategies of Argentine urban households after the 2001 crisis.

Contact the CROP secretariat if further information is wanted about the projects listed.

ISA 4TH WORLDWIDE COMPETITION FOR JUNIOR SOCIOLOGISTS

The essay competition, which is open to scholars under the age of 35, and holding at least a Master's degree in sociology (or a related discipline), offers the opportunity to write on a topic of the candidate's choice. CROP urges young social scientists to write on poverty related topics. The essays can be written in either the language of his/her choice (submissions may be made in any one of ten identified languages) or as an author identified as writing in English or French as a second language. There are separate panels for each of these twelve linguistic options.

The winners will be publicly recognised during the next World Congress of Sociology in Durban in 2006, and will have the possibility of having their papers considered for publication.

The deadline for submitting essays – in hard copy is April 1, 2005 (in terms of the post mark), or receipt, in England, before May 1, 2005.

For more information visit the ISA website: www.ucm.es/info/isa/wcys/index.htm

LIST OF CROP EVENTS 2005

August

20-24: *Poverty Reduction Practice and Reassertion of Sub-nationalist Identities in the Post-Colonial Asia*. Panel organised by CROP and the South Asian Studies Centre, University of Rajasthan, India, at the International Convention of Asia Scholars, hosted by the Shanghai Academy for Social Sciences. See page 2 for Call for Papers for the panel.

September

5-9: *The Politics of Poverty Production*. Session organised by CROP and CLACSO at the International Forum on the Social Science-Policy Nexus, hosted by UNESCO/MOST and the Government of Argentina, in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Papers for the session by invitation only.

November

The Poverty of Forced Displacement, Migration and Refugees (preliminary title). CROP and CLACSO workshop to be held in Cali, Colombia, in co-operation with CIDSE, School of Social and Economic Sciences, Universidad del Valle, Colombia. More information about the workshop forthcoming on the CROP and CLACSO webpages.

CONFERENCE ON HOMELESSNESS

The Global Urban Research Unit (GURU) at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne, England, organizes an International conference on *Homelessness: A Global Perspective*, Mumbai, India, Jan. 9-13, 2006.

The conference aims to stimulate discussion and debate about homelessness around the world, share knowledge and to challenge existing assumptions about homelessness and homeless people.

For more information, contact Suzanne Speak, University of Newcastle upon Tyne, UK, E-mail: s.e.speak@ncl.ac.uk. Deadline for Abstracts 31 June 2005.

RESEARCH CHAIR OPENING

The CIBC Scholar-in-Residence Research Chair is an ongoing program. Commencing in September 2005, the program will fund a senior scholar to take up residence at the Conference Board's main offices in Ottawa, Canada, to carry out research relating to themes like growth and sustainability, ethics and risk.

The appointed Research Chair will work at the Conference Board on a full-time basis

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
Hans Egil Offerdal, Latin American Co-ordinator
Inge Erling Tesdal, Executive Officer
Hege Aarethun, Executive Officer

throughout the agreed upon period of tenure (8-12 months). This position will be suitable for senior professors on sabbatical or research leave from their home institutions. The Chairholder will carry out original research leading to a published report and high-profile public lecture.

Deadline for applications is April 15. For more information see <http://www.conferenceboard.ca/Scholar-in-Residence> on Internet.