A world without poverty

A programme of the International Social Science Council hosted by the University of Bergen, Norway.

The fundamental mission of CROP is to work in collaboration with knowledge networks, institutions and scholars to build independent, alternative and critical knowledge and education on poverty, and to help shape policies for preventing and eradicating poverty.
FOREWORD
By CROP Scientific Director
Alberto Cimadamore

The CROP Secretariat is happy to take this opportunity to share with our readers an overview of events and activities of the past six months. The year started with changes in personnel (see article later in the newsletter), which can be seen as a prelude to other exciting changes that are on the horizon. As this newsletter is being published, our mother institution, the International Social Science Council (ISSC), will merge with the International Council for Science (ICSU) to create the largest science organisation in the world, the International Science Council (ISC). Upcoming negotiations between the ISC and the University of Bergen (UiB) will shape the future of CROP.

Dealing with transitions is always challenging. It offers many opportunities to explore new frontiers as a way to prepare for the future. As part of this line of thinking, CROP has intensified its commitment this semester to one of the thematic areas of its Strategic Plan: Sustainability Science.

Sustainability Science has been defined as “an emerging field of research dealing with the interactions between natural and social systems, and with how those interactions affect the challenge of sustainability: meeting the needs of present and future generations while substantially reducing poverty and conserving the planet’s life support systems” (National Academy of Sciences, PNAS; see also https://sustainabilityscience.w.uib.no).

As we can clearly see in this definition, global sustainability and poverty are closely interlinked, and CROP is committed to this emerging research agenda.

CROP has theoretical, methodological and practical reasons for its focus on Sustainability Science. Sustainability Science provides tools to address the urgent need to understand global challenges such as poverty, climate change and sustainable development from a systemic/holistic perspective. It also spurs a transformative approach towards social change by including stakeholders and agents in the design, development and dissemination of research. Finally, Sustainability Science can create bridges between disciplines and competing perspectives to deal with concrete scientific and societal challenges, thus facilitating CROP’s collaboration and integration within both UiB and the ISC.

CROP has been successfully collaborating with UNESCO for the past few years, and the CROP-UNESCO Seminar on Sustainability Science that took place this semester was a visible result of this cooperation. The recently formulated “Guidelines on Sustainability Science in Research and Education” (UNESCO, 2018) provide a broad base upon which to mainstream this approach. There is a plan for collaboration between CROP and UiB’s Centre for International Health (CIH) to introduce Sustainability Science to the CIH/CISMAC (Centre for Intervention Science in Maternal and Child Health) Research School. The first lecture will introduce Sustainability Science and explain why it is a relevant tool to address global challenges within the framework of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. A second lecture will provide a basic understanding of climate change and its impact at global and regional levels.
The point of departure of the panel organised by CROP was the expressed determination of the United Nations General Assembly “to end poverty and hunger, in all their forms and dimensions, and to ensure that all human beings can fulfil their potential in dignity and equality and in a healthy environment” in approving Agenda 2030 and the SDGs. The relevant question was therefore: How shall we achieve this core objective and how shall we incorporate the lessons learned from past initiatives (such as the MDGs) in order to end poverty and leave no one behind?

Four panelists – Alberto Cimadamore (CROP-UiB/ISSC), Lars Bjarne Kristofersen (Centre for Welfare and Labour Research, Oslo Metropolitan University), Gibrán Cruz-Martínez (Department of Global Development and Planning, University of Agder) and Julia Kercher (UNDP Oslo Governance Centre) - focused on the monitoring system set in motion by the UN to evaluate the process towards achieving SDG#1 and the need for independent assessment that can be provided by universities; a critical evaluation of the progress already made towards the achievement of SDG#1 and its targets; the need to evaluate the multiple relationships between SDG#1 and SDG#2, SDG#8, SDG#10, SDG#16, SDG#17 and their respective targets. They also discussed how existing expertise at Norwegian universities could provide independent and critical evaluations that may present a cornerstone for a constructive monitoring process that can be a key to achieving the SDGs.

The event was chaired by CROP Coordinator, Maria Sollohub.

After the conference CROP had the chance to interview the panelists, and these interviews are now available on CROP’s YouTube channel. (Link)

Focus on Sustainability Science

Workshop Panel at UiB’s SDG Conference Bergen (8-9 February)

CROP organised a workshop panel on “Knowledge for Our Common Future: Norwegian Universities and the Sustainable Development Goals” at the University of Bergen’s SDG Conference in February.

Workshop and Book Launch (27-28 February)

In February 2018, CROP co-organised a workshop on “Perspectives on the Democratic Developmental State” (DDS) in Cape Town, South Africa.

This event was the product of an initiative by CROP, UiB, the School of Government at the University of the Western Cape, and the Southern African-Nordic Centre (SANORD), to critically assess the complex relationships between democracy, capitalism and the role of the state in promoting development focused on social justice.

The workshop sought to continue debates that were initiated at a similar workshop in 2015, including the relevance of universities and research-based knowledge for DDS, as well as the role of the state, local government, civil society and international actors in addressing the challenges of social injustice and inequality and ways of conceiving and implementing a model capable of “governing” the markets and pursuing a long-lasting plan towards sustainable and inclusive development.

A book launch for CROP’s new book, “The Democratic Developmental State: North-South Perspectives” (published by ibidem Verlag) was held within the framework of this 2-day workshop. Two of the editors—Tor Halvorsen (UiB) and Chris Tapscott (UWC)—presented the book during the event, and several of the contributing authors were in attendance. (Link)
Seminar on Sustainability Science (20 March)

CROP and the UNESCO Chair at the University of Bergen co-organised a seminar on “Sustainability Science: A Response to Global Challenges”, at Bergen Resource Centre for International Development on 20 March 2018.

The event was divided into two parts: 1) an open session that took place at the Bergen Resource Centre for International Development, and 2) a workshop for invited participants. The main goal was to explore the theoretical and methodological possibilities presented by recent developments in the field of Sustainability Science.

Initial remarks were given by Annelin Eriksen (Vice-Rector for Global Relations at the University of Bergen) and Alberto Cimadamore (Director of CROP), after which a number of different presentations provided participants with an insight into the field of Sustainability Science. The first presenter was John Crowley (UNESCO) who discussed issues connected with “Broadening the Application of Sustainability Science: UNESCO’s Perspective”. He was followed by Peter Haugan (UNESCO), Noel Keenlyside (GFI/Bjerknes Centre, UiB) and Alberto Cimadamore (CROP, ISSC/UiB) who presented under the general heading, “Sustainability Science: Applications at UiB and Beyond”. To conclude the first session, Maik Adomßent (University of Lüneburg, Germany and UNESCO) and Lutz Möller (UNESCO, via Skype) discussed the topic of “Sustainability Science and Education for Sustainable Development”.

The second part of the event was held in the afternoon and took the form of a 3-panel workshop for invited participants:

- **Panel 1:** “Sustainability Science in Norway: Paving the Road to Addressing Global Challenges”
- **Panel 2:** “A Rocky Road: From Multidisciplinary to Transdisciplinary Research”
- **Panel 3:** “Collaborative Research and Sustainability Science: Forging Partnerships”

The workshop participants had an opportunity to share their opinions, make comments and signal the road ahead for future collaboration.

(Links)

Lecture on a Transformative Green Economy by Enrique Delamonica (19 April)

Visiting researcher and CROP Fellow, Enrique Delamonica (Senior Statistics Specialist in Child Poverty and Gender Equality / Division of Data, Research and Policy, UNICEF), gave a lecture on “Policies for Poverty Reduction in a Transformative Green Economy” at the Bergen Resource Centre for International Development on 19 April 2018.

Delamonica (currently working at the UNICEF headquarters in New York) clarified how access to social services, health and sustainable development influences people’s living standard. In this lecture, Delamonica emphasised the need for devising policies in order to promote employment and unveiled how reduced poverty, higher availability of resources and social development can lead to the realisation of a Transformative Green Economy. This lecture is available online on CROP’s YouTube channel.

(Links)
Presentation on Sustainability Science by Alberto Cimadamore (4 June)

CROP Director Alberto Cimadamore gave a presentation on Sustainability Science at the UiB Centre for International Health academic staff meeting on 4 June 2018.

The presentation described the emerging field of Sustainability Science and explained why CROP has been promoting it for the past 5 years: a) This is an approach particularly apt to deal with global challenges such as poverty, climate change, and sustainable development from a systemic/holistic perspective that focuses on problems, their causes and solutions; b) There is a built-in transformative potential that increases when it includes stakeholders and agents in the definition of problems and identification of solutions, while co-producing relevant knowledge with scientists; c) It create bridges between disciplines and competing perspectives to deal with the concrete scientific and societal challenges/goals of the UN SDGs agenda (where poverty reduction/eradication is prioritised).

Cimadamore used this opportunity to explain some of the issues and challenges relating to Sustainability Science, highlighting in particular the need to enable institutional frameworks as a precondition for fostering it.

Lecture on Poverty, Rights and Sustainable Development by Jorge Paz (29 May)

Visiting researcher Jorge Paz (National University of Salta, Argentina) held an open lecture on 29 May 2018. The event was co-hosted by CROP and the Bergen Resource Centre for International Development.

The title of the lecture was “Pobreza, derechos y desarrollo sostenible. El largo camino desde la teoría hasta la medición y la acción” (English translation: “Poverty, rights and sustainable development. The long way from theory to measurement and action”). Paz talked about how poverty constitutes a deprivation and obstacle to well-being in Argentina and Brazil. He also discussed poverty measurement and public policies within a Latin American context.

Professor Paz focussed in particular on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), underlining the importance of having a monitoring system in place in order to help achieve them. (Link)
The so-called Nordic Model has been declared dead a number of times. The British weekly magazine, *The Economist*, has been among the more persistent messengers to this effect and stated, for example, in December 2006: “It is widely thought that the Nordic countries have found some magic way of combining high taxes and lavish welfare systems with fast growth and low unemployment…Yet, the belief in a special Nordic model, or “third way”, will crumble further in 2007”.

However, in February 2013, the same magazine sang a new tune, with a picture of a Viking on the cover and the title: “The next supermodel. Why the world should look at the Nordic countries”.

Why this new enthusiasm? The reason was that the Nordic countries had successfully steered their way through the global financial crisis, which started in 2007-08, and came socially and economically relatively unscathed through the ordeal. And why was that? My view is that characteristics of the Nordic model, dimensions of welfare state institutions, universalism; egalitarianism; and democratic political systems, have made the Nordic countries better prepared for exposure to sudden, unexpected international events.

The Nordic model has developed over a long period of time. Although the label came later, I would argue that the “model” was born in the 1930s when social democratic parties gained governmental power in alliances with agrarian and/or liberal parties in the three “genuine” Scandinavian countries, Denmark, Norway and Sweden. Crucial compromises between agricultural and industrial interests, and between labour and capital, i.e. trade unions and employers’ associations were made. The pre-WWII decade became important for social policy reforms and for the embryonic model of governance, which matured after the war.

In 2011, “the Nordic way” was one of the major topics of the annual meeting of the World Economic Forum in Davos, and an aggregate meta-index of 16 different global indices (competitiveness, productivity, growth, quality of life, prosperity, equality, etc.) showed the four main Nordic countries at the top of the list. Serious challenges have to be met on a continuous basis, and no one can know the future, but “the Nordic model” has proved to be viable, resilient and robust. If little poverty, social equality, high trust, reform capability, and political stability are major societal goals, the Nordic experience is relevant for the world. The world may, in accordance with the newfound insight referred to by *The Economist*, benefit from looking at the Nordic countries.
Poverty Brief no. 40: April 2018
REVEALING POVERTY: SPEECH AND REPRESENTATION OF THE POOR IN THE BRAZILIAN MEDIA
by Victoria Darling (professor at the Universidade Federal da Integração Latino-Americana, Brazil, and postdoctoral researcher at the Buenos Aires University, Argentina)

The brief approaches the study of poverty and inequality in Latin America from a cultural perspective. The author analyses newspaper articles in Brazil in order to check to what degree both poverty and inequality are “naturalised” within the hegemonic media that play an important educational role in terms of shaping opinions and spreading social values in contemporary society.

Poverty Brief no. 41: May 2018
ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS
by Laura Pautassi (University of Buenos Aires, Argentina)

As economic, social and cultural rights are recognised and protected in international and regional human rights instruments, states are obliged to respect, promote and protect these rights. On a regional level, the Inter-American Human Rights System (IHRS), which is part of the Organization of American States (OAS), plays a key role. In her brief, Laura Pautassi presents guidelines of the IHRS’ monitoring mechanism with the aim of providing a degree of comparison with the methodology of setting principles and targets used by the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Poverty Brief no. 42: June 2018
ACCELERATING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT THROUGH SOCIAL PROTECTION
by Babatunde Omilola (Head of Development Planning and Inclusive Growth, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), New York, USA)

Social protection constitutes a factor relevant for achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In his brief, Babatunde Omilola emphasises the role of social protection for achieving gender equality and women’s empowerment, bridging the nexus between humanitarian and development issues and contributing to the environmental goals of the global sustainable development agenda.

All poverty briefs can be found at: http://www.crop.org/Publications/BriefsSeries/

Open Access Books
CROP makes its open access books and working papers available via the online research archive of the University of Bergen, Bergen Open Research Archive (BORA). In the first semester of 2018, CROP shared 3 books through this channel:

- **Tackling Child Poverty in Latin America: Rights and Social Protection in Unequal Societies** edited by Alberto Minujín, Mónica González Contró and Raúl Mercer
- **Peasant Poverty and Persistence in the 21st Century** edited by Julio Bolívar and Susan Archer Mann
- **Child Poverty, Youth (Un)Employment, and Social Inclusion** edited by Maria Petmesidou, Enrique Delamónica, Christos Papatheodorou and Aldrie Henry-Lee.
The Democratic Developmental State: North-South Perspectives (March 2018)

A new CROP book on “The Democratic Developmental State: North-South Perspectives”, edited by Chris Tapscott, Tor Halvorsen, and Teresita Cruz-Del Rosario, was published in 2018 by Ibidem Verlag. The book is the latest in CROP’s Book Series in International Poverty Studies. The publication is devoted to the concept of a democratic developmental state, which is part of the current development discourse advocated by international aid agencies, deliberated on by academics, and embraced by policymakers in many emerging economies. The authors analysed the different approaches to the implementation of democratic developmental states in various countries and evaluated the extent to which these are merely replicating the central tenets of the East Asian model of the developmental state or if they are succeeding in their attempts to establish a new and more inclusive conceptualisation of the State.

The book was launched during the international workshop on “Perspectives on the Democratic Developmental State” (27-28 February 2018, Cape Town). Two of the editors—Tor Halvorsen (UiB) and Chris Tapscott (UWC)—presented the book at an open session within the framework of the workshop. Contributing authors Ole Johnny Olsen (UiB), Sharon Penderis (UWC) and Olle Törnquist (UiO) were also in attendance.

Upcoming Books

The following four CROP book projects are currently underway (with proposed titles):

- **Child Poverty and Social Protection in Western and Central Africa**
  - output from an international workshop held in May 2016 in Abuja, Nigeria

- **Social Policy, Poverty and Inequality in Central and Eastern Europe and the Former Soviet Union**
  - output from an international workshop held in June 2017 in St. Petersburg, Russia

- **The Politics of Social Inclusion: Bridging Knowledge and Policies towards (or for) Social Change**
  - output from an international workshop held in July 2017 in Paris, France

- **Putting Children First: New Frontiers in the Fight against Child Poverty in Africa**
  - output from an international workshop held in October 2017 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
The beginning of 2018 saw a number of changes at the CROP Secretariat. In January, CROP’s Administrative Coordinator for the last four years, Charlotte Lillefjære-Tertnæs, accepted a new position as Head of Administration at the University of Bergen’s Faculty of Social Sciences. Her responsibilities at CROP were taken over by Maria Sollohub who has been working closely with Charlotte for the last few years. In March, Karolina Półtorak started work as Higher Executive Officer after having previously spent 3 months as an intern at the Secretariat.

Visiting Researchers

Enrique Delamonica and Jorge Paz

CROP received funding from the University of Bergen's SPIRE Programme (Strategic Programme for International Research Collaboration) to host two visiting researchers during the first half of 2018 - Enrique Delamonica (Senior Statistics Specialist in Child Poverty and Gender Equality/Division of Data, Research and Policy, UNICEF) and Jorge Paz (Professor of Economics, National University of Salta, Argentina).

During a week long visit in April, Delamonica had a full agenda with discussions on the following topics: CROP-UNICEF collaboration in relation to an international workshop in New York in October 2018; input and ideas for the CROP-GLOBAL CHALLENGES Working Paper Series; the CROP Fellows programme; the book project from the 2017 Abuja workshop on child poverty (for which Delamonica is lead editor; and the CROP Brief Series (for which Delamonica is co-editor). He also did a video interview for CROP’s new YouTube playlist, “Perspectives on Poverty Research”, where he talks about the issue of “invisible” children and gave a lecture on “Policies for Poverty Reduction in a Transformative Green Economy”, which was mentioned earlier in the newsletter.

Professor Jorge Paz spent a full month at the CROP Secretariat, where he was able to collaborate with CROP Director Alberto Cimadamore in the preparation of the CROP-CONICET/CEIL book on “Sustainability Science, Rights and Development in the 21st Century” to be published later this year by the Spanish-language publisher, Siglo XXI Editores. Paz also held an open lecture (“Pobreza, derechos y desarrollo sostenible. El largo camino desde la teoría hasta la medición y la acción”) in cooperation with the Bergen Resource Centre for International Development, where Spanish-speaking students and staff from UiB had a chance to listen to Paz talk about how poverty constitutes a deprivation and obstacle to well-being in Latin American context.

Paz is a prominent scholar in the field of poverty research and will contribute actively to the long-term relationships between UiB, CROP, the National University of Salta and the National Research Council of Argentina.
Projects and Collaborations

Joint Programme with CEIL-CONICET, Argentina

This joint programme on Poverty and Sustainable Development between CROP and CEIL-CONICET is an ongoing collaboration that started in 2017. During the first half of 2018 work was done on preparing a manuscript for a peer-reviewed publication as output from a workshop held in Buenos Aires at the end of November 2017.

UTFORSK Partnership with UKZN, South Africa

The first half of 2018 saw a continued development of the Partnership for Poverty and Sustainable Development Studies project between UiB (University of Bergen), UKZN (University of KwaZulu-Natal) and CODESRIA (Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa) financed by SIU (Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Education) as part of the UTFORSK programme. Project funding was used to facilitate the participation of four PhD students in the international CROP workshop on “Perspectives on the Democratic Developmental State” that took place at the School of Government, University of the Western Cape, South Africa (26-27 February 2018). Kristin Dalen (UiB), Reidar Øygard (UiB), Methembe Mdilalose (UKZN) and Isaac Khambule (UKZN) presented their papers during this event, and had a chance to discuss the issues connected with the democratic developmental state with numerous professors and experts.

Furthermore, five GLODE (Global Development Theory and Practice) Master students from UiB were awarded scholarships to attend a “Winter School” at the University of KwaZulu-Natal in Durban, South Africa, within the framework of the UTFORSK project. Cahaya Ramadhani, Andrea Espenakk Osvoll, Maria Okyere Addo, Elena Davanger and Helene Karlsen will have the opportunity to take a Masters Module in Political Economy of the Welfare State | Poverty and Sustainable Development from 25 June - 9 July 2018. CROP has also continued to develop and broaden the UTFORSK project website: https://psdspartnership.uib.no/

Erasmus+ Student Interns at the CROP Secretariat

The CROP Secretariat continues to offer internships as part of the Erasmus+ Traineeship programme. These internships have attracted applications from well-qualified and highly motivated students since October 2015. Student interns at CROP take an active role in the life of the Secretariat, providing a valuable contribution to our work, while gaining meaningful experience in an international working environment. Through the events and publications produced by CROP and its global network of researchers, the interns gain an insight into the field of research dissemination and administration at the same time as having the chance to improve their knowledge about poverty and development issues.

During the first half of 2018, the following two students completed internships at the CROP Secretariat:

- **Katharina Räppold** (January-April) from Germany, joined CROP as an Erasmus+ student intern in January 2018 for a period of three months. She is pursuing a BA in Political Science, Administration and Organisation at the University of Potsdam, Germany.

- **Elisabetta Radavelli** (March-June) from Italy, joined CROP as an Erasmus+ student intern for a period of three months. She is currently pursuing an MA in World Politics and International Relations at the University of Pavia, Italy. She holds a BA in Political Science and International Relations at the same University.
CROP’s Social Media Presence

Over the last three years, CROP has made an effort to increase its social media presence and is pleased to register an expanding outreach to its followers. CROP’s student interns play a key role in ensuring a continuous flow of content and activity across several media channels.

YouTube: New Playlist

CROP’s YouTube channel was initiated in September 2014 and has an archive of 70 videos. During the first half of 2018, the channel had more than 1600 views, distributed across various videos.

The videos are divided into four playlists:

- Book presentations – editors present recent CROP books
- Working Paper Series – authors present their contributions to the series
- Visualising Poverty Research – short interviews with renowned scholars
- Perspectives on Poverty Research (NEW) – short interviews with guests, researchers and scholars on various poverty-related topics

There are also several more free-standing videos, including a presentation of CROP, a video celebrating CROP’s 25th anniversary, a summary of experiences from the internship programme, and highlights from the international workshop in St. Petersburg. All the videos have been edited and finalised by student interns.

Facebook and Twitter

CROP’s Facebook account was launched in April 2016 and now has more than 660 followers, over 200 of whom were new in 2018. The CROP Twitter account was launched six months earlier (in October 2015) and has more than 280 followers, including 50 new ones in 2018. These two communication channels have become important outlets for news and announcements from CROP as they give us the opportunity to share short messages, photos and videos in an efficient manner.

With the help of our skilled student interns we plan to continue our expansion of these communication channels in the future. In the meantime, please have a look to our presentation video (link).

Follow us

@CROPoverty
www.youtube.com/user/CROPSecretariat
www.facebook.com/CROPoverty/
Selected (CROP) Events in 2018

25-26 June  
CONFERENCE “Les politiques sociales dans une perspective comparée” with participation of CROP’s Scientific Director, Alberto Cimadamore – BEIRUT, LEBANON

25 June-9 July  
MASTERS MODULE at the WINTER (SUMMER) SCHOOL, University of KwaZulu-Natal – DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA (Link to more)

3-5 July  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND LAUNCH OF THE INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE COUNCIL (ISC) – PARIS, FRANCE

3-5 September  
INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP “La Cuestión Social en el Siglo XXI” (“The Social Question in the 21st century”) co-organised by CROP, El Colegio de la Frontera Norte (Colef), University of Guadalajara and the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) – GUADALAJARA, MEXICO (Link to more)

6-7 September  
INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP “Poverty, Inequality Dynamics, and Economic Development” co-organised by CROP, King’s College London, DSA (Development Studies Association), EADI (European Association of Development Institutes, GPiD (ESRC Global Poverty and Inequality Dynamics Strategic Research Network) – LONDON, UK (Link to more)

25-28 September  
WORLD SOCIAL SCIENCE FORUM 2018 “Security and Equality for Sustainable Futures” – FUKUOKA, JAPAN

11-12 October  
INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP “Including Children and Adolescents in Progress for the SDGs: Understanding and Addressing Exclusion among Poor Children” co-organised by CROP, Equity for Children/The New School and SOS Children’s Villages – NEW YORK, USA (Link to more)

All dates are subject to confirmation