

#02/2018



Comparative Research
Programme on Poverty



A world without poverty

A programme of the International 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.

UNIVERSITY OF BERGEN



International
Science Council

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FOREWORD

By the CROP Secretariat

The CROP Secretariat is happy to take this opportunity to share with our readers an overview of events and activities for the past six months.

As reported in our previous newsletter, 2018 has been a turning point for CROP. Our mother institution, the International Social Science Council (ISSC), merged with the International Council for Science (ICSU), to become the International Science Council (ISC).

The scheduled renegotiation of the contract on CROP will thus take place between the ISC and the University of Bergen and will define the format and framework for CROP from 2018 onwards. The CROP Secretariat is looking forward to contributing to this process.

The following is a joint statement published by the University of Bergen and the International Science Council in December 2018:

"The Comparative Research on Poverty programme (CROP) is governed by an agreement between the University of Bergen (UiB) and the International

Science Council (ISC). The two co-sponsors have now initiated a process towards the renewal of that agreement, including a reassessment of the programme's focus. The recent creation of the ISC [<https://council.science/about-us>] and the adoption of UiB's new strategy and priority areas [<https://www.uib.no/en/priority-areas>] provide a new institutional framework and open up additional possibilities for re-thinking a programme on inequality and marginalisation more broadly. An international workshop in the first quarter of 2019, organised in Bergen by UiB and ISC in partnership with CROP's Scientific Committee, will explore how the programme can take advantage of this new context. UiB Vice-Rector for Global Relations, Annelin Eriksen, will replace Alberto Cimadamore as interim Scientific Director of CROP from end of November 2018 and until a new agreement is signed. UiB and ISC wish to thank and congratulate Dr Cimadamore for his achievements in the past 7 years in developing CROP's networks and advancing poverty research internationally."



EVENTS

"Les politiques sociales dans une perspective compare"

Conference in Beirut, LEBANON (25–26 June)

Scientific Director **Alberto D. Cimadamore** took part in this conference on social policy in a comparative perspective, hosted by the Saint Joseph University in Beirut.

Cimadamore was invited by Professor Fadia Kiwan, founder and director of the Observatory of Public Service and Governance at the university and president of the UNESCO MOST (Management of Social Transformations) Scientific Advisory Committee. He gave a conference presentation on "Globalisation, States and Social Policies in the era of the SDGs".

Read more about the conference (in French): [Link](#)



© Photos: Ecole Nationale d'Administration - ENA Liban

"La cuestión social en el siglo XXI"

Workshop in Guadalajara, MEXICO (3–5 September)

At the beginning of September 2018, CROP co-organised an international workshop in Guadalajara on "The Social Question in the 21st Century". The event was the result of collaboration with El Colegio de la Frontera Norte (El Colef), the University of Guadalajara and the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM).

CROP Director Alberto D. Cimadamore participated in the workshop, where discussions focused on the democratising and redistributive role of states, in particular in countries marked by high levels of poverty and inequality. The discussion was framed within the contemporary "social question" and the responses proposed by the United Nations Agenda 2030 for sustainable development. There was a particular interest in theoretical and empirical studies of the social transformations required to eradicate poverty in all its dimensions (SDG #1) and significantly reduce the inequality within and among countries (SDG #10), while reaching full and decent employment for all (SDG #8). ([Link](#))



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"Poverty, Inequality Dynamics and Economic Development: Tensions and Trade-offs in Mixed Methods Research"

Workshop in London, UK (6–7 September)

This workshop focused on mixed methods research on poverty, inequality, and economic development, thus addressing three of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals: SDG1 (no poverty), SDG8 (decent work and economic growth), and SDG10 (reduced inequalities).

Twenty-nine participants gathered for a day and a half of workshop sessions that gave them an opportunity to explore the scope for mixed methods research within the following areas: Relational Poverty; Approaches to Measurement / Poverty Dynamics; and Poverty Alleviation. The purpose of the workshop was to share ideas and experiences, learn from previous and ongoing work, and discuss work-in-progress. CROP representatives Alberto D. Cimadamore and Maria Sollohub attended the workshop as members of the co-organising team that consisted of CROP, King's College London, the Development Studies Association (DSA), the European Association of Development Research and Training Institutes (EADI), and the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC)'s Global Poverty & Inequality Dynamics Research Network (GPiD). Some of the presentations made at the workshop are available on the CROP website: ([Link](#))



© Photo: CROP

CROP panels and Scientific Committee Meeting at the World Social Science Forum in Fukuoka, JAPAN (25–28 September)



From left: Gabriele Koehler, Alberto D. Cimadamore, Maria Sollohub, Etienne Nel

© Photos: CROP

CROP co-organised two panel sessions at the World Social Science Forum (WSSF) in Japan in September:

1. “Poverty, water and sustainable development in global change: Exploring the nexus from a sustainability science and human security perspective”

This panel session was co-organised by CROP (ISC/UiB) and the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI). It focused on the links between water and poverty from a thematic and methodological approach.

2. “The Politics of Inclusion: Towards a Secure and Sustainable Future”

This panel session was co-organised by CROP (ISC/UiB) and the UNESCO MOST (Management of Social Transformations) Programme, and focused on the conceptualisation of social exclusion.



© Photo: CROP



© Photo: CROP

Some of the presentations made at these panel sessions are available on the CROP website: [Link](#)

In addition to the two panel sessions co-organised by CROP, Scientific Director Alberto D. Cimadamore chaired UNESCO MOST’s session on “Managing migration towards more inclusive societies and the implementation of Agenda

2030”. The MOST (Management of Social Transformations) Programme has a particular focus on the topic of migration through a MOST initiative on the background causes, processes and social implications of migration.



© Photo: CROP

CROP Scientific Committee Meeting

The annual meeting of CROP’s Scientific Committee took place on Wednesday 26 September during the World Social Science Forum in Fukuoka. The Chair of the Scientific Committee was present in person, together with CROP representatives Alberto D. Cimadamore and Maria Sollohub, while other members joined the meeting online. Gabriele Koehler took part as an observer. In addition to the formal reporting conducted in accordance with the agenda, the main topic of discussion was the potential extension of the ISC-UiB contract beyond the end of 2018.

"Addressing Inclusion Among Children and Adolescents Living in Poverty: Progress Toward Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)"

Workshop in New York, US (11–12 October)

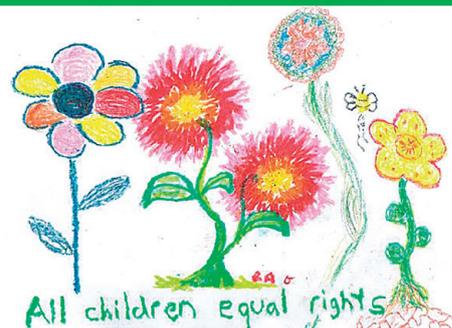
This event was co-organised by CROP and Equity for Children at the New School, in collaboration with UNICEF, SOS Children's Villages and the ChildFund Alliance, and included an open conference in addition to a closed workshop.

The stated purpose of the event was to make a concrete contribution, within the context of the SDGs, to understanding, defining, measuring, and addressing social inclusion among girls and boys living in poverty. The organisers were particularly interested in investigating how knowledge, information, data collection, measurement and monitoring can support strategies and innovations to prevent and effectively address the main drivers of poverty, exclusion and violence against children and adolescents.

Representatives from the University of Bergen included Ernest Darkwah and Marguerite Daniel from HEMIL (Department of Health Promotion and Development) and CROP's Scientific Director Alberto D. Cimadamore. Marguerite Daniel is a member of the editorial committee that will be working to produce a publication using output from the workshop.

Addressing Inclusion Among Children & Adolescents Living in Poverty:

Progress Toward Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



© Image: Event poster (New School)



© Photo: CROP

A livestream of the open conference was recorded and is available via the following [link](#). The conference and workshop programmes, as well as a post-event press release are available on the CROP website: [Link](#)

"No Poverty?"

Seminar in Bergen, NORWAY (17 October)



© Photo: CROP

On the occasion of the UN International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, CROP organised a breakfast seminar with the title 'No Poverty?' at the Bergen Resource Centre for International Development (BRC).

BRC and the Centre on Law and Social Transformation co-hosted this event, which featured researchers Sosina Bezu (Christian Michelsens Institutt), Magnus Hatlebakk (Christian Michelsens Institutt) and Alberto D. Cimadamore (CROP) in conversation with Aslaug Aarsæther (CROP).

The discussion focussed on the achievements, shortfalls and challenges faced by the international community in its path towards the eradication of global poverty, a specific target of the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goal #1. ([Link](#))

Sustainability Science

Seminar in Bergen, NORWAY (24 October)

This seminar was organised for PhD candidates and Master students within the framework of the CIH/CISMAC (Centre for International Health/Centre for Intervention Science in Maternal and Child Health) Research School at the University of Bergen.

CROP Scientific Director Alberto D. Cimadamore led the seminar, focusing on “Sustainability Science as a Tool to Address Global Challenges”. He explored the background of Sustainability Science and explained its significance for addressing the main global challenges as defined in the UN initiative “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”. ([Link](#))

“The SDGs and the Critical Role of Development Research”

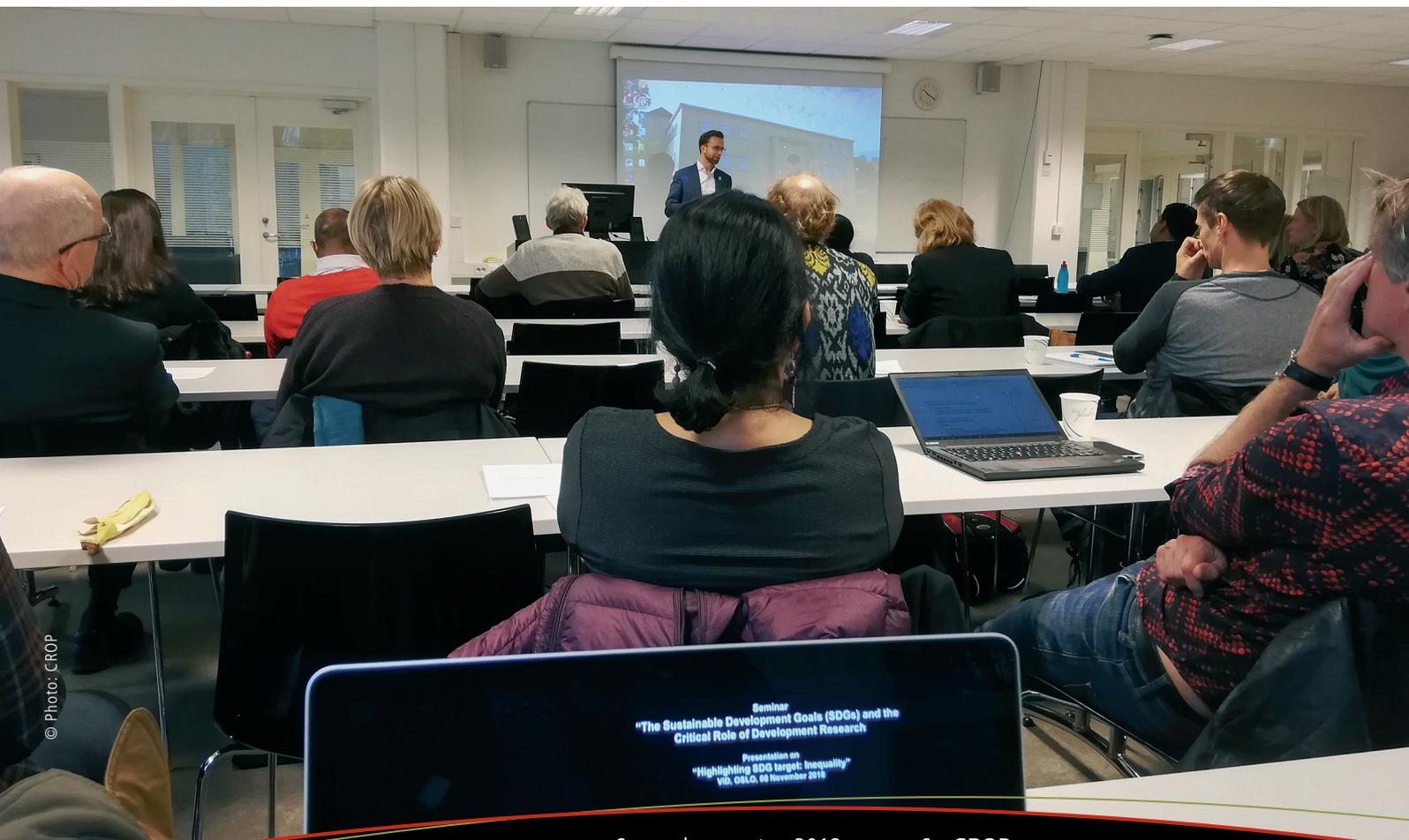
Seminar in Oslo, NORWAY (8 November)

CROP Scientific Director Alberto D. Cimadamore was invited as a speaker to take part in this seminar co-organised by VID Specialised University and the Norwegian Association for Development Research and Justice Conference Norway in Oslo.

Cimadamore gave a presentation to highlight the SDG target of reducing inequality. His focus was on SDG Target 10.4 - Fiscal, wage, and social protection policies, and he discussed the need for integrated scientific frameworks to capture the complexity of the global challenges encompassed by the SDGs and to facilitate solutions.

Following up and reviewing the processes to achieve the SDGs is a central element for success, and universities thus have a critical role in using existing knowledge to monitor and evaluate the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda. Based on experiences from the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) era, the

processes of monitoring and evaluation need to be radically improved. The involvement of universities can increase the level of transparency, accuracy and independence from national governments and international bodies responsible and accountable for reaching the goals. ([Link](#))



“Putting Children First”

Reflections on the 2017 conference in Addis Ababa by Keetie Roelen, Institute of Development Studies (IDS), UK

Despite important strides in the fight against poverty in the past two decades, child poverty remains widespread and persistent, particularly in Africa. Poverty in all its dimensions is detrimental for early childhood development and leads to often irreversible damage for the lives of girls and boys, locking children and families into intergenerational poverty. A group of 150 researchers, practitioners, policy makers and civil society from across the globe came together in Addis Ababa from 23 -25 October 2017 to debate how to address child poverty in Africa during the international conference ‘Putting Children First: identifying solutions and taking action to tackle poverty and inequality in Africa’. The presentations and discussions provided crucial insights into knowledge gaps as well as innovative solutions for the fight against child poverty.

A forthcoming new book, ‘Putting Children First: new frontiers in the fight against child poverty in Africa’ (co-edited by Keetie Roelen, Richard Morgan and Yisak Tafere) captures critical reflections, key lessons learned and recommendations for the way forward. It addresses three key themes: (i) manifestations of child poverty, (ii) child-sensitive social protection, and (iii) transitions from childhood into adulthood.

In relation to manifestations of child poverty, there is need for nuancing understandings of child poverty beyond quantitative measures and rigid categorisations, taking into account issues of shame and dignity, acknowledging complexity and taking a more dynamic view of poverty. Experiences from across the globe also suggest that the persistent problem of childhood malnutrition can only be solved by recognising its intricate linkages with poverty and by furthering work around

measurement and data collection.

In terms of child-sensitive social protection, a ‘cash plus’ approach can offer a powerful extension of existing and combination of complementary interventions in order to promote or reinforce positive effects for children, including with respect to nutrition. Design of interventions matters, notably the size and frequency of cash transfers, but also the types of complementary interventions.

Research into children’s transitions into adulthood highlight the importance of family and community relations, social connectedness and physical connectedness through mobile phones and transport in supporting young people’s abilities to build skills and find jobs. Transitions are also often marked by experiences of violence particularly by adolescent girls, arising from the complex interactions between economic deprivations and social



norms that feed into harmful practices and exposure to violence. Policies aiming to support safe transitions into adulthood would need to account for the many factors underpinning the changes in children’s lives.

Five topics emerged from across all contributions as crucial to take into consideration in the fight against child poverty: (i) the significance of relationships, (ii) the importance of places and spaces, (iii) the prominence of the psychosocial side of poverty, (iv) the urgency of tackling malnutrition, and (v) the role of gender.



Keetie Roelen is Research Fellow and Co-Director of the Centre for Social Protection at the Institute of Development Studies (IDS), UK. She was active in co-organising the conference held in Addis Ababa in 2017 and is lead editor for the forthcoming book ‘Putting Children First: New frontiers in the fight against child poverty in Africa’ due to be published in 2019. Her research and policy advice work focuses on child poverty, social protection and economic strengthening across the globe.

CROP Poverty Briefs

The second half of 2018 saw the first publications in CROP's special issue brief series consisting of short research notes from an international workshop on "Perspectives on the Democratic Developmental State" held in Cape Town in February 2018.

This initiative was supported by the CROP/UiB-UKZN-CODESRIA UTFORSK Partnership for Poverty and Sustainable Development Studies. Four of the five briefs published during the last six months were part of this series, and four more are planned for 2019.



Poverty Brief no. 43: October 2018
CLIMATE-INDUCED POVERTY IN COASTAL BANGLADESH: POLICY IMPLICATIONS

By Saleh Ahmed (PhD candidate in Arid Lands Resource Sciences (minor in Global Change) at the University of Arizona, USA)

Ahmed discusses how natural disasters can create poverty traps for millions of people in coastal Bangladesh. He argues that people whose livelihoods are dependent on various climate-sensitive sectors, such as farming and fishing, are the major victims of climate change and any weather- and climate-related anomaly.

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

SPECIAL ISSUES



Poverty Brief no. 44:
November 2018
REFLECTIONS ON RECENT WELFARE REFORM IN CHINA

By Kristin Dalen (Researcher at the Fafo Research Foundation in Oslo and a PhD candidate at the Institute for Comparative Politics at the University of Bergen, Norway)

Dalen looks at the development of a welfare state in China, with a particular focus on reducing poverty and inequality. She also discuss the Chinese government's strategies to fight poverty and reduce inequality, and asks whether a focus on equality and distribution has the potential to strengthen the legitimacy of the regime.



Poverty Brief no. 45:
November 2018
BUILDING A DEMOCRATIC DEVELOPMENTAL STATE IN SOUTH AFRICA: RESHAPING EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

By Hilde Ibsen (Associate Professor at the Department of Environmental and Life Sciences at Karlstad University, Sweden) and Sharon Penderis (Senior Lecturer of the Institute for Social Development at the University of the Western Cape, South Africa)

Ibsen and Penderis explore the role of education in building a Democratic Developmental State in South Africa. They argue that investing in education is key to addressing poverty, inequality and unemployment, and that indigenous knowledge should be incorporated into higher education curricula.



Poverty Brief no. 46:
December 2018
PROBLEMS AND OPTIONS OF RENEWING SOCIAL DEMOCRACY

By Olle Törnquist (Professor of Political Science and Development Research, University of Oslo, Norway)

Törnquist argues that the general idea of social democracy, defined in terms of sustainable development based on social justice, and the popular democratic politics required to get there, is in crisis. Uneven development in the South comes with divisive interests and collectivities that make democratic social growth pacts difficult.



Poverty Brief no. 47:
December 2018
CONSOLIDATING SOUTH AFRICA'S EMERGING DEMOCRATIC DEVELOPMENTAL STATE THROUGH DEVELOPMENTAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT

By Isaac Khambule (PhD Candidate at the University of KwaZulu-Natal and a Researcher at the Human Sciences Research Council, South Africa)

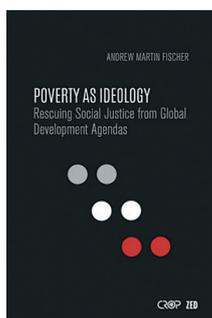
To strengthen South Africa's developmental state ambition, the country needs to enhance its local governments' institutional capacity to deliver on their developmental mandate. This requires co-operative governance between all spheres of government and civil society and will only succeed if it is effective at the grassroots level.

CROP Prize New book publication December 2018

POVERTY AS IDEOLOGY RESCUING SOCIAL JUSTICE FROM GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT AGENDAS



by Andrew Fischer
Institute of Social Studies (ISS)



Winner of the International Studies in Poverty Prize awarded by the Comparative Research Programme on Poverty (CROP) and Zed Books

The book offers an incisive critique of how the field of international poverty studies, cultivated by global development agendas, has served to legitimate an increasingly

punitive and conservative neoliberal world order while neglecting the wider interests of social justice that are fundamental to creating more equitable societies.

Poverty has become the central focus of global development efforts, with a vast body of research and funding dedicated to its alleviation. And yet, the field of poverty studies remains deeply ideological and has been used to justify wealth and power within the prevailing world order.

Our development policies have created a 'poverty industry' that obscures the dynamic reproductions of poverty within contemporary capitalist development and promotes segregation in the name of science and charity.

Fischer concludes that an effective and lasting solution to global poverty requires us to reorient our efforts away from current fixations on productivity and towards more equitable distributions of wealth and resources.

[\(Link\)](#)

Forthcoming Books

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

- ***Child Poverty and Social Protection in Western and Central Africa***
 - output from an international workshop held in May 2016 in Abuja, Nigeria (expected publication: 2019)
- ***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 (expected publication: 2019)
- ***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 (expected publication: 2019)
- ***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 (expected publication: 2019)
- ***Stop the Bleeding: Protecting Poor Countries' Revenues***
 - edited by Krishen Mehta (as part of the CROP Book Series) (expected publication: 2019)
- ***Welfare States, Labour Rights and Basic Income in Latin America (in Spanish)***
 - output from an international workshop held in September 2016 in Bahia, Brazil (expected publication: 2019)
- ***Food Sovereignty as a Strategy for Confronting Poverty and Inequality***
 - by David Barkin, (as part of the CROP Book Series) (expected publication: 2019)
- ***Why Some Development Works***
 - by Meera Tiwari (as part of the CROP Book Series) (expected publication: 2019)
- ***Sustainability science, rights and development in the 21st Century (in Spanish)***
 - output from an international workshop held in December 2017 in Buenos Aires, Argentina (expected publication: 2019)
- ***Addressing Inclusion among Children and Adolescents Living in Poverty***
 - output from an international workshop held in October 2017 in New York, USA (expected publication: 2020)
- ***The Social Question in the 21st Century (in Spanish)***
 - output from an international workshop held in September 2018 in Guadalajara, Mexico (expected publication: 2020)

PROJECTS AND COLLABORATIONS

Joint Programme with CEIL-CONICET, Argentina

This joint programme on Poverty and Sustainable Development between the National Scientific and Technical Research Council of Argentina (CONICET), represented by the Labour Research and Study Centre (CEIL), and the International Science Council (ISC), represented by CROP,

is an ongoing collaboration that started in 2017. During the second half of 2018 work continued 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 second half of 2018 saw a continuation of activities as part of the Partnership for Poverty and Sustainable Development Studies project between CROP-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 finance the participation of five UiB GLODE (Master in Global Development Theory and Practice) students in a Masters Module offered by UKZN's School of Built Environment and Sustainable Development Studies (SOBEDS) at its Winter School from 25 June – 09 July. The five UiB students successfully completed the Masters Module in "Political Economy of the Welfare State | Poverty and Sustainable Development".

During the first week of the Winter School, CROP Coordinator **Maria Sollohub** took the opportunity to visit UKZN project partners and had meetings with administrative

and academic staff to discuss the next steps of the UTFORSK project and perspectives for the future.

A final visitor to the SOBEDS Winter School was **Wenche Dageid**, associate professor at the Department of Health Promotion and Development (HEMIL) at the University of Bergen. Wenche gave two lectures/seminars at the end of the course period: one on "Global Mental Health and Agenda 2030 – Leaving No One Behind?", and one on "Agenda 2030 – Prospects for Health and Equity".

Reports from project activities in South Africa in June/July 2018, including individual contributions by the UiB Master students, are available on the project website: [Link](#).



Maria Sollohub (CROP, UiB) and Oliver Mtapuri (SOBEDS, UKZN)



Cahaya Ramadhani, Andrea Espenakk Osvoll, Elena Davanger, Maria Okyere Addo, Helene Karlsen (UiB Master students)

NEWS FROM CROP

CROP Staff

The second half of 2018 saw another staff change at the CROP Secretariat. In September, **Aslaug Aarsæther** took over from **Karolina Póltorak** as Higher Executive Officer at CROP. We were sad to say goodbye to Karolina, but happy to welcome Aslaug.



Student interns at the CROP Secretariat

The CROP Secretariat continues to offer internships as part of the Erasmus+ Traineeship programme. This autumn the Secretariat also hosted a Master student from the University of Bergen (Department of Health Promotion and Development) Student interns at CROP take an active role in life of the Secretariat, providing valuable assistance and new input to our work, while obtaining meaningful experience in an international working environment.

During the second half of 2018, the following three students took part in the internship programme at the CROP Secretariat:

- **Maria Okyere Addo** (August-November) from Ghana is currently pursuing an MA in Global Development at the University of Bergen, Norway. She holds a BA in Sociology and Social Work from the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology in Ghana.
- **Alina Kern** (August-September) from Germany is pursuing a BA in Social Sciences at the Justus Liebig University in Gießen, Germany.
- **Sophia Hahn** (December 2018 – February 2019) from Germany, is currently studying for a BA in Politics and Public Administration at the University of Constance, Germany.



CROP's Social Media Presence

CROP's social media accounts continue to grow in popularity, whereby student interns play a key role in ensuring a continuous flow of content and activity across several media channels.

YouTube

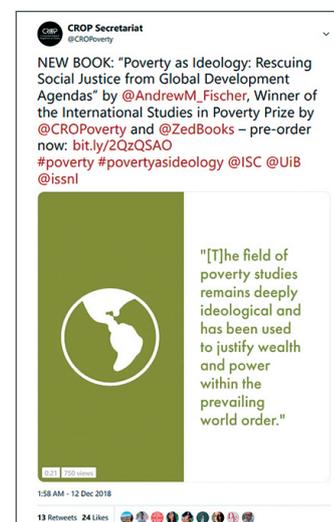
- Visualising Poverty Research – short interviews with renowned scholars discussing the causes of poverty and the strategies and policies to eradicate it
- Perspectives on Poverty Research – short interviews with guests, researchers and scholars on various poverty-related topics
- Presentations of books and working papers by editors and authors
- Various other free-standing videos

Facebook and Twitter

One of the highest reaching (1424 people) **Facebook** posts in the second half of 2018 featured five students from the Department of Health Promotion and Development (HEMIL) at the University of Bergen (UiB) who completed a Masters module at the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN).

The **Twitter** post with the highest reach (6591 people) was a video announcement for the CROP Prize book written by Andrew Fischer (Institute of Social Studies - ISS) and published by Zed Books London: "Poverty as Ideology: Rescuing Social Justice from Global Development Agendas".

Follow us



Launch of the International Science Council (ISC)

In 2018, CROP's mother organisation, The International Social Science Council (ISSC), merged with the International Council for Science (ICSU) to form the International Science Council (ISC). The formal launch of the ISC took place on 5 July 2018 in Paris.



**International
Science Council**

The ISC is a NGO with a global membership that brings together 40 international scientific unions and associations and over 140 national and regional scientific organisations, including

academies and research councils. It is the only international NGO bringing together the natural and social sciences, and it is the largest global science organisation of its kind.

Discussions between UiB and ISC regarding the future of CROP

At the end of 2018, discussions were underway between the University of Bergen and the International Science Council regarding the renegotiation of a contract on CROP. A "Scoping Seminar" will take place in March 2019 to establish the potential for future collaboration.



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