

Editorial

Two years ago, in 1992, the General Assembly of the International Social Science Council accepted the CROP Plan-of-action developed by an interim committee, and elected the first CROP Standing Committee. In December 1994 a new General Assembly will take place, and CROP will be invited to present its plans for the next two years.

This is a good opportunity to look at the past CROP activities with critical eyes, and to learn from our experiences made so far.

The emphasis has been on arranging meeting places for scholars working with poverty issues, and trying to create an organisational structure which facilitates networking across countries and disciplines. So far eight workshops/seminars/conferences have been arranged within CROP, plus several sessions on poverty within other academic settings. A secretariat has been established, a newsletter is making its way around the world, and a first publication of papers based on a CROP workshop is under preparation.

So where do we go from here? Do we want more of the same? Or do we want to move in new directions? Are we ready to engage in research projects under the CROP umbrella, or should we continue to support projects under other umbrellas? Is the idea of a travelling college in the methodology of poverty research, ripe for a committee to start working on? Do any of you have proposals for small regional workshops on poverty topics close to your hearts? All ideas which will further the interests of comparative poverty research, and which CROP can help materialize, are welcome.

The next Plan-of-action will be under preparation during the month of October, and you are all invited to bring forward ideas and bring your expertise into the Plan. CROP is a vehicle for all those interested in poverty research, and the Plan should reflect just that.

Else Øyen, Chair of CROP

Calendar of events

* CROP/IIED Workshop on:

"Urban Poverty"

7th- 9th October, 1994, in Bergen, Norway

The Workshop was a joint enterprise between CROP and the International Institute for Environment and Development, London, UK. The following papers were accepted for presentation:

"Economic crisis and the urban poor; the case of Metropolitan Lagos, Nigeria" Aina, Tade Akin, CODESRIA, Senegal

"Tackling poverty in Nairobi's informal settlements: developing an institutional strategy" Alder, Graham, P.O. Box 46486, Nairobi

"Making sense of urban poverty in the South; what do we know and what do we need to know" Amis, Philip, U. of Birmingham, UK

"Poverty and inequality in Buenos Aires" Arrossi, Silvina, IIED America-Latina, Buenos Aires, Argentina

"Survival and accumulation strategies at the rural-urban interface in north-west Tanzania" Baker, J., Scand. inst.of African Studies, Sweden

"The myth exploded: urban poverty in the Pacific" Bryant-Tokalau, Jenny, U. of the South Pacific, Fiji

"Urban poverty in India: theoretical understanding and policy implications" Gill, R., Panjab University, India

"Urban poverty and shelter. With some experiences from Bombay, Jakarta and Mexico City" Hesselberg, Jan, U.of Oslo, Norway

"Fighting poverty: the economic adjustment of female migrants in Dhaka, Bangladesh" Huq-Hussain, Shahnaz, 39 Philbeach Gardens, London SW5 9EB, UK

"Gender, poverty and structural adjustment in Harare, Zimbabwe" Kanji, Nazneen, P.O.Box 125, Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania

"The social shaping of space; poverty patterns in Milan" Kazepov, Yuri, Universita Degli Studi Milano, Italy

"The access to land by the poor in urban Tanzania: some findings from Dar es Salaam" Kironde, J.M. Lusugga, Ardhi Inst., Dar-es-Salaam

"Crisis, restructuring and urban poverty in Mexico" Lapatí, Agustín Escobar & Mercedes González de la Rocha, CIESASO, Guadalajara, Mexico

"Housing policy and urban poverty in Kenya" Macoloo, G.C., U. of Nairobi, Kenya

"Poverty lines or household strategies; a review of conceptual and methodological issues in the study of urban poverty" Rakodi, Carole University of Wales, College of Cardiff, UK

"Urban poverty and the informal economy in South Africa's economic heartland" Rogerson, C.M., U.of Witwatersrand, South Africa

"The housing of the urban poor: issues and policies in the development of unauthorized settlements" Vaa, Mariken, U.of Oslo

"Multiple deprivation in Dutch urban areas; an evaluation of intersectoral problems and policy innovations" van der Wouden, Ries Social and cultural planning office, Rijswijk, The Netherlands

"Poverty in Polish big cities; an example of Lodz" Warzywode-Kruszynska, W. & Jolanta Grotowska-Leder, U. of Lodz

"Conceptualizing urban poverty" Wratten, Ellen, LSE, UK

*** CROP/IUPERJ Workshop on: "Views from the Top: Elites and Poverty" 7th-9th November, 1994, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.**

The Workshop is a joint enterprise between CROP and Instituto Universitário de Pesquisas do Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Professor Elisa P. Reis, IUPERJ, is responsible.

Papers will analyze how strategic actors such as the bureaucracy, entrepreneurs, politicians, intellectuals, religious leaders, and the military view poverty, inequality, distribution of resources and their own policy making.

*** CROP/UNESCO Scientific Symposium on: "The Regional State-of-the-Art-Reviews on Poverty Research"**

November 30th to December 2nd, 1994, Paris, France. Please note: That the date for this event has been forwarded to November the 30th!

The purpose of the reviews is to develop a research instrument for researchers working on comparative poverty studies. The reviews will provide insight into regional differences in the study of poverty, give an overall view of the variety of concepts, hypotheses and methodologies in use, identify results of a more general nature, and present the authors' qualified evaluation of the present state of the art and future path of comparative research to follow.

More than twenty researchers and research groups have prepared regional reviews which will be presented during the symposium.

*** CROP-IISL Seminar on
"Law, Power and Poverty"
Oñati, Basque Province, Spain.
11th - 13th of May, 1995.**

In conjunction with the Oñati International Institute for the Sociology of Law-IISL, CROP is arranging a seminar for social scientists and legal scientists on the topic of "Law, Power and Poverty". Further information on the Seminar and the background paper are available from the CROP Secretariat.

*** The UN WORLD SUMMIT FOR SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT**

UNESCO has invited CROP to organize a Round Table on "Poverty and Participation" at the UN Summit which will take place in Copenhagen at the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs conference facilities at "Eigtvedt Pakhus", March 7th 1995. The topic for the Round Table is "Poverty and Participation in Civil Society".

* This is also the topic for a CROP research project under preparation. Social scientists interested in joining such a comparative research project are invited to make contact with the CROP Secretariat.

* Professor Eric de Grolier, c/o ISSC Secretariat, 1 rue Miollis, F- 75015 Paris, France, will be preparing a GLOSSARY on the poverty concept. Please contact him if you want to include basic documents in this project.

* Did you know that the UN has named October 17th the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty?

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 organizes regional workshops, symposia and international conferences, promotes joint research projects, links poverty researchers and disseminates information about poverty research.

CROP is developing an international database on poverty researchers, and documentation of ongoing research and of available data sources.

If you wish to have your name listed in CROPNET, you are welcome to write the CROP Secretariat and request a copy of the CROP Database Questionnaire.

For further information please contact either:

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Note: Ahmed Jiyad, the former coordinator, is no longer employed by CROP. The new Coordinator is Einar Gilberg, Norwegian, with a degree in third world geography.



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