



Styre: Fakultetsstyret ved Det samfunnsvitenskapelige fakultet

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[UFORDELT]

Overføring av Comparative Research Programme on Poverty (CROP) til Det samfunnsvitenskapelige fakultet

Bakgrunn

The Comparative Research Programme on Poverty (CROP) har vært et internasjonalt program som har arbeidet for å bygge kritisk kunnskap om forebygging og utrydding av fattigdom. CROP har vært organisert i et forpliktende samarbeid mellom International Science Council (ISC) og Universitetet i Bergen. UiB har finansiert og vært ansvarlig for sekretariatet knyttet til CROP som håndterer administrative og akademiske oppgaver for programmet.

I 2017 iverksatte UiB internasjonal evaluering av CROP. Evalueringen førte til at UiB ledelsen ønsket å gjøre endringer i programmet knyttet til tematisk fokus, ledelse og organisering. Siden høsten 2018 har man hatt dialog med ISC om dette.

CROP til Institutt for sosialantropologi

Sekretariatet har til nå vært organisert direkte i linje til universitetsdirektøren. For å styrke forskningsprofilen og det tematiske fokuset har UiB ønsker å knytte CROP tettere til et fagmiljø.

Det samfunnsvitenskapelige fakultet har da meldt sin interesse og ønsket å være vert for programmet. Et slikt program vil være viktig for fakultets satsning inn mot det strategiske satsingsområdet Globale samfunnsutfordringer.

Fakultetsledelsens forslag er at CROP legges til Institutt for sosialantropologi. Man vil da kunne bygge videre på fagmiljøet ved instituttet som er knyttet til det nylig avsluttende ERC prosjektet «Egalitarianism». Institutt for sosialantropologi var også det eneste instituttet ved Det samfunnsvitenskapelige fakultet som fikk vurderingen 5, dvs fremragende, i Forskningsrådets evaluering av de samfunnsvitenskapelige miljøene i Norge (SAMEVAL). I tillegg fikk forskningsgruppen knyttet til ERC prosjektet ved instituttet også vurderingen 5. Institutt for sosialantropologi har sagt seg villig til dette. Selv om CROP knyttes til Institutt for sosialantropolog forutsetter det faglige programmet til newCROP at man jobber tverrfaglige innad på SV-fakultetet og også utad med andre fakultet spesielt med dem som har aktivitet knyttet til satsningen på de globale samfunnsutfordringene.

Prosess og nytt faglig program

Viserektor for globale relasjoner, Annelin Eriksen ble i november 2018 oppnevnt som leder for CROP i interimperioden som er ment å vare frem til ny avtale mellom UiB og ISC blir undertegnet og ny leder blir utnevnt, dette er forventet å skje i august 2019.

Eriksen satte i januar ned en tverrfaglig sammensatt gruppe under ledelse av professor i sosialantropologi Bjørn Enge Bertelsen som har utarbeidet et nytt faglig program for «newCROP». Beskrivelse av det nye faglige programmet ligger vedlagt:

«The mission of this new programme (called NewCROP in this document) is to generate better knowledge on the different dimensions of inequality that can contribute to systemic transformations. This will be done through establishing multiple sites of co-construction of knowledge through partnerships with other institutional partners and policy makers.»

Det endelige programmet skal behandles i styret i ISC i august og hvis styret gir sin tilslutning til det skisserte faglige programmet, vil en og ny avtale mellom UiB og ISC være på plass i september 2019. Fakultetsstyre vedtak i saken vil basere seg på foreliggende plan, med mindre justeringer. Blir det vedtatt større endringer vil vi bringe saken tilbake til fakultetsstyret.

Ressurser

En overføring av CROP sekretariatet til SV-fakultetet innebærer overføring av 1,5 administrative stillinger samt den faglige lederstillingen. Det innebærer også en overføring av bevilgningen som CROP har hatt, 3,2 millioner. Midlene er ment å dekke nevnte stillinger samt noe driftsmidler. Programmet skal være fullfinansiert.

De administrative stillingene vil være knyttet til fellesadministrasjonen til Institutt for sosialantropologi og geografi og rapportere til administrasjonssjefen her. Fakultetsledelsen har også vært i dialog med professor Bjørn Bertelsen om å påta seg ledervervet for en fireårsperiode. Perioden kan forlenges en gang. Bertelsen er positiv til dette.

Det vi ber fakultetsstyret om, er å ta stilling til er om man stiller seg bak fakultetsledelsens forslag om å overta CROP og med det faglige programmet som beskrevet.

Forslag til vedtak:

Styret ved Det samfunnsvitenskapelige fakultet stiller seg positiv til å overta CROP gitt at UiB og ISC blir enig om en ny avtale.

Jan Erik Askildsen
dekan

Alette Gilhus Mykkeltvedt
fakultetsdirektør

ISC

Bergen, October 4th 2018

Dear Dr Hackmann,

Re: Renewing the agreement about the Comparative Research on Poverty Programme (CROP)

The hosting agreement between the International Social Science Council (ISSC, now International Science Council, ISC) and the University of Bergen on CROP comes to an end in December 2018. We would like to initiate discussions about the renewal of that agreement.

In 2017 UiB conducted a comprehensive internal evaluation of CROP to assess how the programme has worked for the university over the past years. It is important to emphasize that this evaluation was undertaken for internal purposes and with an emphasis on the quality and impact of the research produced, the programme's collaborations and networks, and the programme's activities. The full evaluation report is attached to this letter.

The evaluation panel noted that CROP is an agent of collaborative knowledge production and that it has produced an impressive amount of outputs in relation to its resources. The programme's main modus operandi, with a focus on developing international networks, organising workshops and publishing books, corresponds well with CROP's goals. The panel has also noted CROP's secretariat ability to deliver a high number of international activities in a professional way.

However, based on the study of the documents available and the site visit, the panel noted important challenges confronting CROP:

- A low degree of integration in UiB;
- A lack of coherence with UiB's own plans and planning processes;
- A low awareness of quality, outcomes and impact of the programme's outputs
- A relatively weak thematic focus
- A lack of efforts in building collaboration and internal alliances that would increase the programme's scope and quality.

Following this evaluation, UiB would like to enter into negotiations with ISC about the continuation of a jointly co-sponsored programme under the following conditions:

1. New leadership

The evaluation panel addresses the role and the tasks of the Scientific Director, and we have concluded on the basis of their evaluation that a continuation of a programme requires new leadership. We would like to underline that this is not a question about the performance of the current Scientific Director, who has done a good job with the secretariat and the networks which has been his main mandate. However, in view of the weak thematic focus and low awareness of scientific quality (as it is stated in the evaluation report), we strongly believe that the programme requires new leadership with a stronger scientific mandate. In order to meet these challenges, and especially the lack of strong scientific quality, we would want the

new programme director to hold a professorship in a relevant thematic field/discipline. We also consider crucial for the new Director to be directly involved in the active research activities at UiB on CROP's thematic areas. We would like the new Director to be a professor with a full time position at UiB.

2. Re-consideration of CROP's thematic focus

UiB would like to consider the possibility of re-orienting the focus of the programme, potentially around issues of changing forms of marginality, inequality, poverty and mechanisms of inclusion and exclusion. We believe that such a reorientation is necessary to increase the programme's visibility and relevance in the context of global policy processes, such as the SDGs. Our university is furthermore committed to maintaining the international character of the programme, which should be reflected in the programme's governance structures and scientific strategy and plans.

In order to brainstorm about CROP's thematic focus, UiB would like to invite ISC to co-organise a scoping workshop to be held at UiB in the spring of 2019.

We are fully aware that these conditions for the renewal of the agreement have important consequences for the staff at CROP Secretariat. We are willing to maintain the current administrative staff in the programme. The Rector of UiB would like to meet the current Scientific Director on 26 October to inform him of the plans for the programme re-orientation and offer him another position at UiB, at the same level and with the same salary.

We hope to receive your response quickly.

Best wishes,

Dag Rune Olsen
Rector

Kjell Bernstrøm
Universitetsdirektør

A new direction for “Comparative Research Programme on Poverty (CROP)”

Prepared by Bjørn Enge Bertelsen, University of Bergen (UiB)

Vision

Making research on rising inequality count

Mission

Connecting global and critical research on inequality for a transformation of our world.

The mission of this new programme (called NewCROP in this document) is to generate better knowledge on the different dimensions of inequality that can contribute to systemic transformations. This will be done through establishing multiple sites of co-construction of knowledge through partnerships with other institutional partners and policy makers.

1. Background and process

The *Comparative Research Programme on Poverty (CROP)* is governed by an agreement between the University of Bergen (UiB) and the International Science Council (ISC) and CROP has been a recognised player in global poverty research for over 25 years.¹ In 2018, UiB and ISC initiated a process towards the renewal of that agreement recognizing *inequality* to be an overarching focus². At an international workshop held end March 2019³, a concept note was part of the wide-ranging discussion on future directions of CROP, hereafter NewCROP.⁴ UiB Vice-Rector for Global Relations, Annelin Eriksen, serves as interim Scientific Director of NewCROP until a new agreement is signed by both parties.

2. Rationale

While the rationale for the renewal of CROP derived both from the recent creation of ISC and the adoption of a new UiB strategy, it was crucially informed by *six global developments*:

- 1) increasing and unbearably high levels of economic and intersecting inequalities which jeopardise the present and future sustainability of economies, societies and communities,
- 2) the interactions of inequalities with other global challenges of our times, including environmental change,
- 3) the call from many poverty researchers that this field must be expanded to consider comprehensive forms of inequality more broadly,
- 4) the recognition of a lack of knowledge about inequality trends in regions most affected by them, and
- 5) the appreciation that knowledge, epistemologies and data on inequalities differ widely across the global scientific community,

¹ See appendix 4 *The achievements and future realignments of the Comparative Research Programme on Poverty (CROP)*.

² See appendix 1 *Working group for UiB/ISC scoping workshop aimed at renewing CROP*.

³ See appendix 2 *Programme for UiB/ISC Scoping Workshop*.

⁴ See appendix 3 *Re-thinking the Comparative Research Programme on Poverty (CROP). Concept Note*.

- 6) the acknowledgment that research-based advice and recommendations needs to be made available to policy makers work to reduce inequalities in different contexts.

To respond to these developments, NewCROP suggests addressing **four key questions**:

- 1) how may the vast existing knowledge on inequalities be synthesised to deepen and broaden our understanding of how multiple inequalities are created, maintained and reproduced?
- 2) what tools, models and approaches may be identified to increase our capacity to assess, measure and compare dimensions of inequality over time and across the world?
- 3) how can we increase our knowledge about inequality in places most affected?
- 4) how do we move towards greater equality?

3. Multiple Sites of Co-construction of Knowledge

NewCROP integrates different empirical and theoretical, qualitative and quantitative, local and comparative/global research approaches. Designed as a radically inter-disciplinary programme with an anchor in the social sciences, the programme wishes to involve also health, data, natural and other scientists, in co-designed processes of knowledge construction. It will be attentive to issues of research data ownership, comparability, integration and use.

The rising importance of the economies in the Southern hemisphere results in a growing body of knowledge from, and research in, these regions. A comparative research programme needs to take advantage of these new, alternative bodies of knowledge produced outside Europe and North America.

To that end, NewCROP will benefit from the knowledge produced in multiple sites of co-construction of knowledge. This means:

- integrating partners and teams from across the globe around a common research framework that reflects plural epistemic traditions, including perspectives and concerns from the Global South,
- bringing together various research sites or domains (spatial, digital) in new ways, and combine various forms of material/data (including laboratories, Big Data, data sets, archives or other social science material)
- providing a framework facilitating collaboration across disciplines and knowledge systems around problems of inequality.

These multiple sites of co-construction of knowledge (disciplinary and regional) would be a unique feature of NewCROP. They would open the way for significant contributions toward achieving the transformative shifts of Agenda 2030 through improved understandings of the interconnections between several dimensions of inequality in different contexts, and better knowledge on how to address inequalities and move towards greater equality.

4. A New Scientific Focus: Conceptualising and addressing inequalities

The proposed scientific framework for the new programme aims:

- to rearticulate and integrate recent developments in poverty research into a broader research framework around inequality;

- to focus on the interactions between **six dimensions** of inequality:
 - Economic inequality, including differences between levels of incomes, assets, wealth, capital, living standards and employment
 - Social inequality: differences between the social status of groups and imbalances in the education, health, justice and social protect systems
 - Political inequality: the differentiated capacity for individuals and groups to influence political decision-making processes and to benefit from those decisions, and to enter into political action
 - Cultural inequality: discriminations based on gender, ethnicity and race, religion, disability and other group identities
 - Environmental inequality: unevenness in access to natural resources and benefits from their exploitation, exposure to pollution and risks, and differences in the agency needed to adapt to such threats
 - Knowledge-based inequality: differences in access and contribution to different sources and types of knowledge, as well as consequences of these disparities
- to analyse how these interactions are created, reproduced, maintained and experienced in different **urban contexts**, as well as on how they shape inequalities between urban centres and peripheries,
- to address two interconnected yet distinct research modalities:
 - a) Understanding inequality**
Multidimensional and plural research on inequality must be centrally guided by questions regarding the fundamental nature, historical legacy and constitution of knowledge about inequality, such as the questions identified in section 2.
 - b) Addressing inequality**
A new international research programme on inequality must aim to understand contestations over inequality, the responses developed by people affected, and the policy tools (laws, policies) that aim to redress inequality, in order to identify possible pathways towards greater equality in different contexts.
- To produce actionable and relevant research contributing to societal impact and transformation, by
 - increasing knowledge about inequalities in places most affected by these through the creation of multiple sites of knowledge production
 - producing knowledge feeding directly into relevant global or regional policy processes such as Agenda 2030, or led by UN bodies (such as UNDP, UNESCO, UN-HABITAT, UN-WOMEN).

5. NewCROP activities

NewCROP will work primarily as a **coordinator of research networks**. It will convene sessions in conferences, organise events and workshops (also in important UN meetings), coordinate special journal issues, and publish new research results.

The programme will appoint **Fellows**. These are core researchers and/or practitioners appointed by the programme Scientific Committee who may be drawn into activities.

It will establish a **Guest researcher programme** for a limited number of short-term guest researchers from the Global South to work at either UiB or at institutions within the three research consortia (see 6.4 below).

NewCROP would count on a small core budget for its scientific activities, and would seek additional funding from different national and international sources to ensure full participation from its international networks in its activities. The programme would also seek to use digital tools for collaborative work (including virtual workshops and conferences).

6. Initial Actions and Timeline

By September 2019

1. Signature of an agreement between the ISC and UiB to establish newCROP
2. Appointment of a Scientific Director by UiB in consultation with the ISC, to lead the programme secretariat and deliver the activities;

By October 2019

3. Appointment of a Scientific Working Group by the ISC and UiB to fulfil the duties of the Scientific Committee during an initial stage of up to 18 months. The responsibilities of the WG would include making proposals for a new name and guiding the design of items 3 to 7;
4. Launching a limited set of initial scientific activities, which could include
 - publishing outstanding studies and monographs initiated by CROP
 - launching a first call for the guest researcher programme
 - selecting a first cohort of NewCROP Fellows
 - developing a dissemination strategy

By February 2021

5. Establishment of at least three research consortia (or “sites”) in different regions of the world (Africa, Latin America/Caribbean, Asia-Pacific, MENA) over a period of up to 18 months. Taking advantage of the ISC regional members and offices, programmes and partners, as well as ongoing research networks of UiB researchers, the WG and Secretariat would organise workshops and meetings to:
 - locate potential partners in different regions,
 - co-design with the consortia the science plan,
 - identify potential sources of funding for programme’s activities
6. Fundraising as required for this initial phase (European Research Council, Horizon Europe, NORAD and Norwegian Research Council could be targeted);
7. Finalisation of an Activities and Development Plan for the programme for the next 5 to 10 years to be submitted to the sponsors
8. Organisation of an initial conference

7. Proposed organizational features of NewCROP

A governance structure with the following bodies:

- A) A Board of Sponsors (BS) who defines the programme mandates and a general framework for its activities. The current co-sponsors are UiB and the ISC. UiB also

hosts the programme secretariat and is its main source of funding. The ISC and UiB could invite additional organisations to become sponsors.

- B) A **Scientific Committee (SC)** to decide on the scientific strategy and the activities of the programme. The SC is appointed for 2 years and comprises up to 10 international experts and practitioners. It is appointed by the BS through an open call for nominations. The SC reports to the BS.
- C) Secretariat managed by a full-time **Scientific Director**. The Director should be a permanent member of UiB academic staff and will be appointed by UiB in consultation with the ISC. The Secretariat reports to the SC. Its core activities include:
- organising scientific, dissemination, outreach and governance activities as defined by the scientific strategy
 - being the active interface between the programme's sites, and partners
 - acting as the programme's centre and core administrative home
 - staying in touch with relevant key partners at the ISC and UiB