



CLACSO-CROP, OSSREA and SEPHIS

issue this Call for Papers for the international workshop

Strategies against poverty: designs from the North and alternatives from the South

ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA, FEBRUARY 4-6, 2009

The *CLACSO-CROP* programme and the *Organization for Social Science Research in Eastern and Southern Africa* (OSSREA) with the collaboration of the *CLACSO South-South Program* and the *South-South Exchange Programme for Research on the History of Development* (SEPHIS), issue this Call for Papers for the international workshop “**Strategies against poverty: designs from the North and alternatives from the South**”, which will be held in **Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from February 4-6, 2009**. The objective of the workshop is to bring about a comparative, critical and multidisciplinary understanding of the theoretical frameworks and practices which were/are put forward as solutions to poverty in the South.

Over the last decades countries in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean have undergone a conceptual reorientation of social policies followed by dramatic changes in institutional mechanisms traditionally linked to social policies. At large, these processes have been imposed by multilateral agencies from the North, pushing a structural adjustment agenda when addressing the complex relationship between state, market and society with respect to poverty reduction. The neoliberal agenda provided countries in the South with several sets of standardized policy recommendations which ended up becoming the customary wisdom for politicians and bureaucrats alike. However, regardless of this ideological reorientation, poverty is still an endless feature of African, Latin American and Caribbean countries that has been even aggravated in many cases.

The neoliberal dominance in policy making processes in the South has been promoted by the multilateral agencies and other means of international cooperation through several instruments. Amongst them were conditionalities encouraging privatization and liberalization, which have been an important element in international financial institutions policy toward states in the South. A study from 2006 argues that such conditions are less common than before, but they are still included as important elements both in the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank (WB) loans¹. As a part of new roles for market promoted by international organizations and dominant ideology, the state was challenged as a tool for development. Withdrawal of the state in social and economic life was encouraged, without taking into consideration the existing reality in most of the South characterized by an enormous social inequality and poverty that threatens life, freedom and good quality existence.

Nevertheless, these neoliberal policies -and their failed results- in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean are being challenged due to their politically and biased motives and characteristics. A

¹ Bull, Benedicte et al: The World Bank's and the IMF's use of Conditionality to Encourage Privatization and Liberalization: Current Issues and Practices. SUM Report No. 13, Nov 2006

new discussion about viable pro-poor policies, when the relation between state, market and society is being changed (i.e. the removal of the state as a crucial actor on the social policy arena), is now taking place in the South. Scholars, social movements, activists and even some governments in the South are now actively seeking to overcome the dominant neoliberal view and they are putting the poor at the centre of social policy preoccupations. This paradigmatic shift can be seen both in practices, strategies and theoretical approaches that are emerging from the South.

As a contribution to accelerate, and strengthen, this paradigmatic change, we invite scholars from different disciplines to contribute with multidisciplinary and critical papers on the theme.

The workshop will focus on, but not be limited to, questions like:

- ✓ How can we conceptualise present social policy and anti-poverty regimes globally? What new and distinctive trends are present in the global South? What models are used in the South to promote change in social policy and anti-poverty regimes? How are they institutionalized and implemented?
- ✓ Which historical factors can be identified that prevent or facilitate successful poverty reduction policies in the South?
- ✓ Should the millennium development goals be seen as comprehensive targets with respect to eradicating poverty in the South?
- ✓ What explains the failure of the design(s) from the North in solving the challenge of poverty in the South?
- ✓ Are the necessary conditions of true partnership, between the North and the South, in place for fighting poverty? What factors strengthen or weaken such partnerships?
- ✓ How has the ruling neoliberal paradigm from the North influenced research on poverty and social policy in the South?
- ✓ How do higher education, science, technology and capacity-building for policy management feature in the poverty reduction strategies of the South? What are the factors militating against their prominence in the strategies?
- ✓ What are the intentional and unintentional, consequences of standardized policies and interventions from the North?
- ✓ Are there other factors (besides ideology, theory and imposed practice from the North) which prevent the implementation of successful poverty reduction policies in the South?
- ✓ What is the role of low intensity conflicts, civil wars and climate change with respect to poverty in the two regions?
- ✓ Which features in the designs from the North have resulted in the strongest resistance in the South and why?
- ✓ Which are the main alternatives to policy recommendations coming from the North that have been arising in the South? How original and effective are they?
- ✓ Could alternative options/paradigm(s) last long enough in order to develop new institutions and new capabilities for poverty reduction or eradication? Do these alternatives need radical political, economical and social changes in the South and why is that so?
- ✓ What is the role of social organization, education, knowledge, employment policies and standards in the construction of alternatives towards poverty eradication in the South?
- ✓ Additional resource requirement to universalize access to basic social services (health, education, water and sanitation) is only US\$ 70-80 billion per year². Which are the main ideas coming up from the South for such resource mobilization?

² Mehrotra, Santosh and Enrique Delamonica: Eliminating Human Poverty. Macroeconomic & Social Policies for Equitable Growth, CROP International Studies in Poverty Research 2007:278

The workshop will bring together a maximum of 25 participants from diverse sectors and disciplines of the social sciences and humanities. The Call for Papers is open to potential participants throughout the world, although preference will be given to researchers based in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean. We expect that all participants selected will be active in both the presentation and discussion of papers.

In general, participants are responsible for their own travel expenses, but there will be a limited number of travel grants (earmarked for participants from the South) available. These will be assigned according to a criterion, which includes geographic origin, the relevance, quality, and originality of the abstracts which have been submitted.

As a rule, the organizers of the seminar will cover costs for lodging and meals for all accepted participants (not living in the city of the event) during the days of the workshop. In the case of co-authored papers, only one of the authors may participate in the application process for a travel grant. The workshop will be conducted in English.

**THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACTS IS:
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24TH, 2008**

The abstract (in English) must include: the title of the proposed paper and a summary of its theme or central argument(s). This should include a preliminary bibliography, make reference to the theory, methodology and expected findings of the proposed paper and **SHOULD NOT EXCEED ONE PAGE IN LENGTH**.

Please attach a BRIEF (1 page) CV with a list of your recent publications together with the abstract. Please, also clearly indicate your name, title, nationality, postal and electronic address, and telephone and fax numbers if applicable when sending the abstract. *Abstracts and CV's which do not follow the requested number of pages (1 page abstract and 1 page CV) will not be evaluated by the Academic Committee.*

The Abstract and summary of your CV should be sent via e-mail to the three following addresses:

- CLACSO-CROP Program, E-mail: [clacso-crop@clacso.edu.ar]
- CROP Secretariat, E-mail: [crop@uib.no]
- OSSREA Secretariat, E-mail: [ossrea@ethionet.et]

The participants will be notified by e-mail once the Academic Committee for the workshop determines whether a proposal has been accepted or not, and provided information regarding the format to be employed for **the final version of papers (in English), which must be submitted (to all the above mentioned addresses) by Monday January 12th, 2009**. Please be aware that authors of papers submitted after this deadline will not be considered for a travel grant.

More information regarding this event can be requested from the CLACSO-CROP Program or the CROP Secretariat at the above-mentioned addresses.

