

ASAP  Academics Stand  
Against Poverty

## Launch conference in Oslo, Norway

3–4 Sept. 2011, UiO Blindern Campus

**Academics Stand Against Poverty (ASAP)** is an international organization of scholars and teachers that aims to increase the impact of academics on global poverty through promoting and supporting collaboration, public outreach and policy intervention. ASAP members include moral and political theorists, economists, environmental scientists, public health experts, and scholars from a range of other disciplines.

ASAP is staging a series of launch conferences in 2011-2012. The aim of these conferences is to grow the network and develop ideas for achieving positive impact, as well as to promote concrete poverty alleviation projects.

The US launch conference was held at *Yale University in April 2011*. The UK launch conference was held at the *University of Birmingham in May 2011*. The India launch conference will be held in *New-Delhi in October 2011*.

This meeting marks the launch of the ASAP network in Norway. It will be hosted by **Thomas Pogge**, President of ASAP, Research Director at the UiO Centre for the Study of Mind in Nature (CSMN) and Leitner Professor of Philosophy and International Affairs at Yale.

During the meeting we will present the work done so far towards building ASAP and discuss the roles ASAP could play in Norway and globally. Conference participants will be invited to offer new ideas on how ASAP can contribute to academic work on alleviating global poverty and to take part in shaping and building the organization.

This meeting also marks the launch of a new initiative led by ASAP, the *Global Poverty Consensus Report*, which is a project aimed at building an inclusive academic consensus on what ought and can be done to alleviate global poverty and articulating it in way that is accessible both to policy makers and to the public and which is suitable for framing and feeding into the MDG replacement process.

THE EVENT IS  
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[www.csmn.uio.no](http://www.csmn.uio.no)



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ASAP - CSMS - CROP public meeting:

**"Building Consensus  
on Global Poverty"**

**Ashok ACHARYA  
Alberto CIMADAMORE  
Thomas POGGE**

**Litteraturhuset, Oslo  
Sunday 4 September 2011,  
19:00**



# The Global Poverty Consensus Report Workshop, Oslo, 3–4 September 2011

We aim to have the report signed by as many global poverty experts as possible

The expiration of the Millennium Development Goals in 2015 creates an opportunity for academics to impact global poverty by playing a leading role in shaping what will replace them. The main advantage that we have as academics in influencing such processes stems from our authority as experts. However, this authority is often undermined by the fact that we appear to disagree sharply with one another.

It is hard to argue that one should listen to the experts when the experts appear to diverge widely. We believe that while there is real disagreement among the experts there is much more overlapping consensus on what can and ought to be done to alleviate global poverty than would appear on the surface.

**This project aims to address this problem by identifying and clearly articulating that consensus which lies beneath the surface of academic disagreement on global poverty alleviation in a way that is accessible both to policy makers and to the public.**

**It aims to provide a normative and factual framework that can feed into and shape the public and policy debates surrounding the MDG replacement process.**

The content of the Global Poverty Consensus Report (GPCR) will be developed through a combination of:

- Open and inclusive dialogue between academics and representatives of civil society and international organizations.
- Literature review.
- Analysis of overlapping consensus using the tools provided by the social sciences and humanities.

**We aim to have the report signed by as many global poverty experts as possible.** We do not expect to find a unanimous consensus. There will be a trade-off between how specific and substantive we can get and how many experts would be willing to sign the report.

The content of the report should represent an optimal trade-off among:

1. Substantiveness
2. Wide consensus
3. Political and economic feasibility.

Throughout the process of developing the report we will adhere to the principles of inclusiveness and comprehensive representation. In particular we seek to ensure that the voices and interests of poor people shape the recommendations expressed in the report.

#### THE WORKSHOP:

In the workshop we will engage in an extensive but structured dialogue about how to develop this project, taking into account what we know about the successes and failures of the MDG and how we can best contribute to the process of replacing them. The discussion will take place in plenary session and discipline based breakout sessions and will focus on three key issues:

1. *Methodology:* What is the process through which we can best identify and/or produce overlapping consensus among academics on global poverty alleviation?
2. *Positions:* What are the main positions among which we need to identify overlapping consensus?
3. *Themes:* What are the main themes and general topics on which the GPCR should focus?
4. *Content:* For each theme, what concrete statements are good candidates for inclusion in the GPCR?

**The work we will begin in Oslo will be continued shortly after in the October 20th workshop in New-Delhi where we will hold the second stage of the GPCR launch.**

We hope that the overlaps and disagreements we will find between the two meetings will provide a good indication of what is most likely to be met with broad overlapping consensus among academics globally and thus help focus our efforts in the process of developing and composing the report.

For more details on the project go to:  
[<http://academicsstand.org/projects/gps.php>]

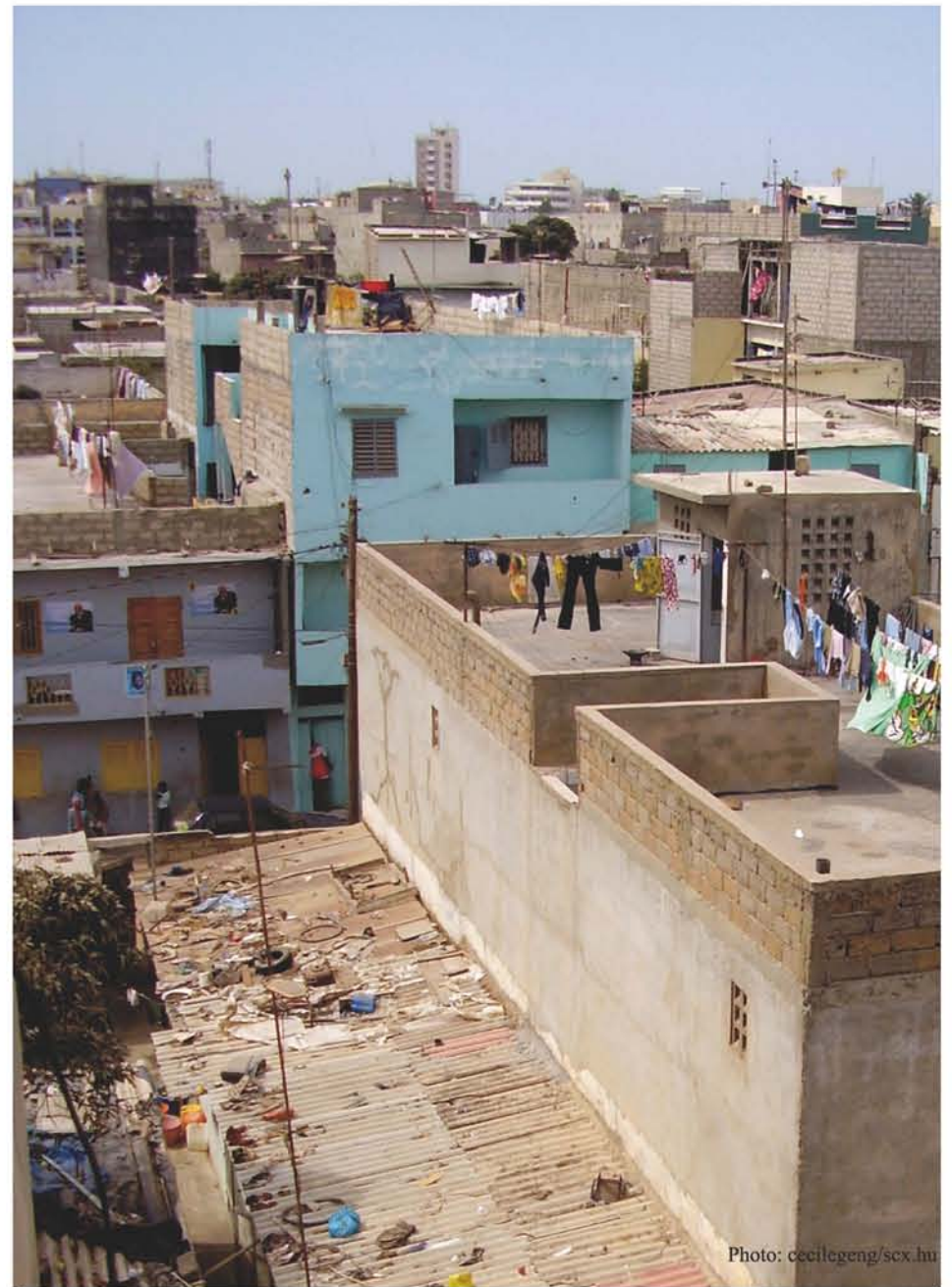


Photo: cecilegeng/scx.hu

## Call for Participation in Global Poverty Consensus Report Workshops, Oslo, 3–4 September, 2011

UNIVERSITY OF OSLO, BLINDERN CAMPUS

We invite poverty experts from all disciplines to participate in the conference and workshop to take place in Oslo, Sep. 3rd-4th. Further information on the schedule and structure of the conference will be published shortly.

Since there is limited seating available we will prioritize registrants based on disciplinary diversity and time of registration. For more information and registration, please contact: Knut-Eric Joslin <[knuteric.n.joslin@gmail.com](mailto:knuteric.n.joslin@gmail.com)>.

For more information on ASAP go to:  
[www.academicsstand.org](http://www.academicsstand.org)

## Follow up conference in New Delhi

The Oslo conference will be closely followed by a "twin" conference in New-Delhi on Oct. 20th. This second meeting will be dedicated to building and shaping the ASAP network in India and to continuing the discussion started in Oslo on the Global Poverty Consensus Report.

Photo: vasantdave/scx.hu

