T09P14 / Corruption as a Public Problem: Do Policymakers Need a New Perspective?

Topic : T09 / Governance, Policy networks and Multi-level Governance

Chair : Steven Gawthorpe (Charles University)

Second Chair : sofia wickberg (University of Amsterdam)

Third Chair : Giulia Mugellini (Università della Svizzera italiana)

GENERAL OBJECTIVES, RESEARCH QUESTIONS AND SCIENTIFIC RELEVANCE

Corrupt practices are by no means a new phenomenon, in the past three decades however, corruption has been reframed and thus emerged as a 'policy problem'; a deviance from good governance standards. This process of (re)politicisation of corruption goes parallel to the seminal work led mainly by Rose-Ackerman and Klitgaard presenting corruption as a principal-agent dilemma. Klitgaard's 1988 corruption formula C=M+D-A (corruption equals monopoly plus discretion minus accountability) has indeed been central to anti-corruption efforts with a predominant focus on cost-benefits analyses, competition most notable monitoring and control mechanisms in the form of transparency programs (Persson, Rothstein and Teorell, 2013). The road to hell is however paved with good intentions, and the ubiquitous usage of 'best practices' in anti-corruption programs overlooks the premise that problems are ambiguous, problem criterion are volatile change and thus policy strategies might be ineffective or have even reverse effects. Corruption as a public problem is rife with standardization of problem definitions leading to error of the third type: we are attempting to solve the wrong problem.

This panel seeks to aid policymakers to craft more effective interventions and assistance programs that encourage and support good governance. We aim to harmonize varying conceptualizations to provide policymakers with new perspectives, data enrichment, and grounded recommendations directly applicable to improving anti-corruption assistance and intervention strategies. Given the challenge of corruption, this panel will be of value across the international policy community.

CALL FOR PAPERS

Facing the relative failure of many anti-corruption policies, scholars from various disciplines are reconsidering the theoretical assumptions behind the occurrence and persistence of corruption (see Persson, Rothstein and Teorell, 2013; Marquette and Peiffer, 2014; Torsello, 2016). We invite papers emphasizing contemporary discourses and narratives of corruption with increased attention towards policy-relevant aspects of good governance, actor identification, and the ensuing power struggles contributing to the convergence or divergence of anti-corruption policies. We invite theoretical and empirical contributions that facilitate discussions on diverging theoretical explanations, the construction of corruption as a policy problem, issue framing and re-framing and policy narratives through good governance discourse.

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Session 1 Determining the Problem Boundaries in Corruption

Friday, June 30th 08:15 to 10:15 (Block B 5 - 1)

Discussants

Marlen Heide (Institute for Public Communication - Università della Svizzera italiana (USI))
Patrick Barrett (The University of W#aikato)

The emergence of political corruption as a public problem: a shift in political legitimacy?

sofia wickberg (University of Amsterdam)

Constructing Corruption as a Policy Problem Across China's Emerging Print Media Landscape

Scott Fritzen (Evans School of Public Policy and Governance)

An Overview of Corruption in the US Government

Yahong Zhang (Rutgers University)

Re-Defining Corruption in a New Zealand Context

Patrick Barrett (The University of W#aikato)
Daniel Zirker (The University of Waikato)

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Session 2 Critical Anti-Corruption Perspectives

Friday, June 30th 10:30 to 12:30 (Block B 5 - 1)

Discussants

Giulia Mugellini (Università della Svizzera italiana)
Samuel Ankamah (Griffith University)

A Systematic Literature Review and Outlook of Corruption Studies

Yahong Zhang (Rutgers University)

Rethinking Taxonomies of Anti-Corruption Efforts

Jean-Patrick Villeneuve (Institute for Public Communication - Università della Svizzera italiana (USI))
Giulia Mugellini (Università della Svizzera italiana)
Marlen Heide (Institute for Public Communication - Università della Svizzera italiana (USI))

Anti-Corruption Policy Failure: The Case of Moldova's Billion Dollar Scandal

Mihail Popsoi (University of Milan)

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Session 3 Extending the Determinants of Corruption

Friday, June 30th 13:45 to 15:45 (Block B 5 - 1)

Discussants

sofia wickberg (University of Amsterdam)

Leslie Holmes (University of Melbourne)

SOCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY MECHANISMS AND ACCOUNTABILITY RELATIONSHIPS: TYPOLOGY OF SUPPORT ROLES

Samuel Ankamah (Griffith University)

Police Corruption and Collusion: How a Good Governance Approach Can Help Combat This Problem

Leslie Holmes (University of Melbourne)

Spatial Proximity and a System of Corruption

Steven Gawthorpe (Charles University)

Do women MPs care more about corruption? New data from the UK, France and Spain

Constanza Sanhueza

Amy Alexander (University of Gothenburg)