



WHAT IS CORRUPTION?

MWP Multidisciplinary Research Workshop

24th May, 2018 – Seminar Room 4, Badia Fiesolana

Abstract

Corruption is one of the major problems of modern societies. Transparency International estimates the total costs of corruption as more than 5% of global GDP, while 2017 Corruption Perceptions Index points out that the majority of countries are making little or no progress in reducing corruption. Interestingly, corruption is also a multifaceted concept that has a long history of different meanings and is still variously connoted depending on the discipline of research. As such, corruption involves other close notions, like clientelism, patronage and state capture, thereby increasing its conceptual opacity. Nonetheless, corruption as a phenomenon and a concept remains an essential object of inquiry for social and political sciences, economics and legal studies.

The aim of this conference is twofold. On one hand, we plan to address the overarching definitional question of what corruption is and how we identify it. The relevance of this question is evident, if we need to operationalize the concept consistently across disciplines. To this end, the first session hosts a book symposium of a recent comprehensive work on corruption, *Making Sense of Corruption*, by Bo Rothstein and Aiysha Varraich (Cambridge University Press 2017), and a hands-on presentation on corruption and clientelism in the Lebanese context. On the other hand, we intend to focus on the origins of corruptive human behaviour. Why do people behave corruptly in general? Why are some people ready to cooperate in order to increase their wealth at the expense of a third party? Why are some others willing to make efforts in order to punish corrupt behaviour? The second session of the workshop is dedicated to the understanding of corruption as a social norm and it aims to explore the issue from the perspective of experimentalist economics.

Organizers: Chiara Destri, MW Fellow, SPS; Tatyana Zhuravleva, MW Fellow, ECO.

Programme

- 09:30 – 11:30 SESSION 1.1 How Do We Identify Corruption?
Chair: Chiara Destri
- ❖ Book symposium on *Making Sense of Corruption* (Cambridge University Press 2017)
- 09:30 – 10:00
- * Bo Rothstein, August Röhss Chair in Political Science, University of Gothenburg
 - * Aiysha Varraich, Doctoral Student, Department of Political Science, University of Gothenburg
- 10:00 – 10:30
- * Richard Bellamy, Professor of Political Science, UCL / Max Weber Programme Director, EUI
 - * Tine Gade, MW Fellow, RSC, EUI / Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI)
 - * Authors' response
- 10:30 – 10:45 Coffee break
- 10:45 – 11:30
- * Per Andersson, MW Fellow, SPS, EUI
 - * Vivian Gerrand, MW Fellow, RSC, EUI
 - * Authors' response and general discussion
- 11:30 – 12:30 SESSION 1.2 How Do We Identify Corruption?
Chair: Chiara Destri
- ❖ Tine Gade, MW Fellow, RSC, EUI / Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI): *The Transformation of Lebanese Clientelism: From Conventional Patronage to Vote-Buying*
- 12:30 – 14:00 Lunch
- 14:00 – 16:00 SESSION 2.1 Is Corruption a Social Norm?
Chair: Tatyana Zhuravleva
- ❖ Alexey Belyanin, Head of the Laboratory for Experimental and Behavioral Economics, HSE: *Legal Conscience and Trust to Police*
 - ❖ Julien Senn, Postdoctoral Researcher, Department of Economics, University of Zurich: *Corruption and Cooperation*
- 16:00 – 16:15 Coffee break

- 16:15 – 18:15 SESSION 2.2 Is Corruption a Social Norm?
Chair: Tatyana Zhuravleva
- ❖ *Arthur Schram, Professor of Experimental Economics, Amsterdam School of Economics: Friends or Foe? Social Distance in Bribery*
 - ❖ *Tatyana Zhuravleva, MW Fellow, ECO, EUI: Studying Corruption at the Lab: Can We Observe the Healing Effect?*
- 18:15 – 18:30 Closing remarks
- 18:30 – 20:00 Cocktail reception