

ANTI-CORRUPTION RESEARCH NEWS

KNOWLEDGE FOR TRANSPARENCY - LINKING ANTI-CORRUPTION RESEARCH AND PRACTICE

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ACRN: MOBILISING GLOBAL KNOWLEDGE AGAINST CORRUPTION

Welcome to the seventh issue of Anti-Corruption Research News. Here you will find recent insights and activities in anti-corruption research, synthesised for scholars, policy-makers and anti-corruption practitioners. This newsletter is part of the Anti-Corruption Research Network (ACRN), an initiative by Transparency International to build a knowledge community and information service for anti-corruption research.

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BRIDGING AGENDAS: HOW ANTI-CORRUPTION RESEARCH CAN IMPROVE CLIMATE GOVERNANCE

By Krina Despota, Transparency International

Climate change presents perhaps the greatest governance challenge the world has ever faced. Research on the science of climate change—its causes, its consequences, its solutions—has been ongoing for decades. Yet research that examines the intersection of corruption and climate governance is a nascent field. While many academic and advocacy-oriented researchers are beginning to examine the human, environmental and economic costs associated with corruption in climate governance, such efforts need to be scaled up to match the urgency of the challenge before us.

By no means exhaustive of the good work being done on this topic, this article introduces a few of the most prevalent issues in the area of climate change and corruption research.

Undue influence and conflicts of interest (and gaps)

Mitigating climate change means transforming energy policies, changing

consumption patterns, and developing and implementing new low-carbon technologies. Such sweeping change carries economic opportunities for some, and, at least in the short term, challenges to established business models for others.

Affected are some of the most powerful and lucrative industries in the world. Oil and gas interests will have to adjust to policies aimed at reducing reliance on fossil fuels. Investment banks, alternatively, may be well-positioned to earn considerable profits through participation in carbon markets, which monetise reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. Added to this mix are thousands of smaller industry and civil society groups that carefully follow and engage in the local, national and international debates that shape climate change policy.

Understanding how these groups interact with policy-makers and to what extent they are influential is crucial to ensuring that the mitigation policies that are eventually adopted are selected for their

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SPOTLIGHT: CORRUPTION AND CLIMATE GOVERNANCE



effectiveness, and not as an outcome of undue influence. This question of policy capture has been particularly salient regarding the development and design of carbon markets. However, methods for measuring potential undue influence vary.

In the US, mandatory lobbying registries allow researchers to “follow the money” that was poured into lobbying activities in the run-up to a Congressional debate on a climate change bill that included carbon markets.¹ Direct tracking of expenditure enables a comparison of spending by various interest groups, demonstrating, for example, that oil and gas interests outspent environmental groups by a factor of eight in 2009.² Such comparisons can inform analysis of how such disparities might influence climate policy decisions.

In Europe, where there is no mandatory disclosure of lobbying expenditure, researchers have relied on proxies—such as participation in open stakeholder meetings, surveys, or calls for papers initiated by the European Commission—to determine the proportional weight of businesses and other groups in the shaping of climate policy.³ In one recent report, researchers rely on freedom of information requests to review email exchange and analyse drafts of EU initiatives on climate commitments. They have identified “cozy” relationships between a leading European business group and the related EC Directorate and argue that such close ties between business and European institutions threaten to dilute the ambition of proposed regulation on carbon markets and emission reductions targets.⁴

While it is impossible to draw a direct line between lobbying efforts and final policy outcomes, these various approaches start to form a picture of how private businesses might influence public climate policy.

Do perceptions of corruption stifle investment for mitigation?

In addition to probing the possibility of undue influence within national or regional climate policies, researchers are also asking how perceptions of, or experiences with, corruption might shape a country or an investor’s willingness to fund developing-country mitigation efforts.⁵ For example, researchers at the Austria-based International Institute of Applied Systems Analysis interviewed experts on solar power and determined that regulatory risks—defined as corruption or complexity surrounding bureaucratic procedures—was perceived to be the greatest threat to renewable energy investment in North Africa. They then tried to determine the cost of this additional risk, calculating that roll-out of new solar technologies in North Africa would be triple that of a similar roll-out in Spain, where bureaucratic corruption is not perceived to be as pervasive.⁶

Such work is complemented by a nascent body of literature that provides more in-depth explorations of the social, political and economic costs that accrue when weak governance systems and corruption create opportunities for reckless profiteering in booming green economy markets.⁷

The growing scramble for land that has followed the emergence of biofuels as a possible alternative to fossil fuels is one such issue. Many researchers are now seeking to understand the social and economic impacts of large-scale land acquisition on local communities.⁸ Their findings suggest that foreign land investment is all too often accompanied by denial of land or water access to local farmers, inadequate compensation agreements and displacement by force.⁹

Continuing research on this topic should not only lead us to better map how corruption in land acquisition for biofuel production siphons

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“Research that explores where corruption might undermine the selection, development or implementation of climate change mitigation and adaptation solutions is a critical element for guaranteeing that we have the most suitable and robust strategies for addressing this global challenge.”

benefits and opportunities from local communities, but, more importantly, it should arm practitioners with actionable solutions to improve governance in this area.

Research on climate adaptation

A growing body of research is also focusing on the funding mechanisms that are being put in place to help developing countries adapt to climate change. Those least responsible for climate change—the poorest and least industrialised countries in the world—will likely bear the greatest brunt of its impact. As a result, many development organisations, environmental groups and academics have focused their research efforts on how to ensure effective and accountable funding for adaptation in the face of a very fragmented institutional landscape.

Researchers are assessing whether the various bodies tasked with managing adaptation funding, including the World Bank, multilateral development banks, and the UN Global Environmental Facility, have sufficient mechanisms in place to ensure transparency and accountability.¹⁰ Efforts also include research that tracks developed country pledges for adaptation funding and attempts to confirm whether the commitments made are “new and additional” to funds already pledged as development aid.¹¹

Mechanisms for delivery of climate finance are also being analysed to find ways to ensure that funds are effectively used at national and local level. Stronger representation of developing countries within funding bodies, for example, is seen as one means of ensuring local-level ownership of climate finance, while enhanced civil society engagement is considered to provide another layer of oversight.¹²

Researchers are trying to identify appropriate indicators and measurements of success for adaptation projects¹³ and considering how relatively new approaches, such as crowd sourcing techniques, can be used for local-level monitoring of projects.¹⁴

In addition to questions of equity and effectiveness of adaption funding, attention is now turning to both the predicted and already manifest impacts of climate change. Developing effective and transparent solutions will require significant collaboration and awareness across research communities. Lessons from international policy research and security studies, for example, can help to anticipate the challenges to good governance which are likely to arise in the case of widespread climate-related migration.¹⁵ Corruption—still a relatively taboo topic in the humanitarian aid community—will also have to be addressed more directly in research that aims to inform planning for increasingly frequent and intense natural disasters brought about by climate change.

Climate policy: An urgent need for more anti-corruption research

As the solutions to climate change become ever-more urgent, it will be increasingly important that systems for good governance are given greater priority. Research that explores where corruption might undermine the selection, development or implementation of climate change mitigation and adaptation solutions is a critical element for guaranteeing that we have the most suitable and robust strategies for addressing this global challenge.

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HIGHLIGHTS IN ANTI-CORRUPTION RESEARCH

MEASURING CORRUPTION

World Development Indicators 2011

The World Bank, 2011

The World Development Indicators (WDI) are the primary World Bank collection of development indicators, compiled from officially-recognised international sources. The indicators establish the benchmark against which development progress is measured. This 15th edition of WDI aims to provide relevant, high-quality, internationally comparable statistics about development and the quality of people's lives around the globe. It includes more than 900 indicators organised in 6 sections: World View, People, Environment, Economy, States and Markets, and Global Links.

<http://data.worldbank.org/data-catalog/world-development-indicators/wdi-2011>

Corruption in Afghanistan: Bribery as Reported by the Victims

UNODC, 2010

This survey was conducted in rural and urban areas of Afghanistan between August and October 2009. The survey covered 12 provincial capitals and more than 1,600 villages across the country: overall more than 7,600 people were randomly selected and interviewed. It recorded the real experiences, as reported by respondents, in terms of bribes paid and contacts with public officials in the 12 months before the survey. Key findings from the survey include: 52% of adult Afghans had to pay at least one bribe to a public official in 2009. On average, victims of bribery reported that they had to pay almost 5 kickbacks per year; in total that amounted to approximately US\$ 2,490 million in bribes, which is equivalent to 23% of the country's GDP. While bribery is prevalent in both urban and rural areas, the frequency is slightly higher in rural areas. The sectors most affected are police, courts and customs.

<http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/data-and-analysis/corruption-in-Afghanistan.html>

Freedom in the World 2011

Freedom House, 2011

Freedom in the World is an annual survey of global political rights and civil liberties. The latest edition analyses developments that occurred in 2010 in 194 countries and 14 territories around the world and assigns each country a freedom status—Free, Partly Free, or Not Free—based on a scoring of performance on key democracy indicators. According to the survey's findings, 2010 was the fifth consecutive year in which global freedom suffered a decline. The analysis claims that these declines threaten gains from the post-Cold War era in Africa, Latin America, Asia, and the former Soviet bloc.

<http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=594>

Identifying Underreporting of Business Corruption through Randomised Response Techniques

Nathan M. Jensen & Aminur Rahman, 2011

This World Bank research paper proposes a new methodology to improve firm-level surveys for measuring corruption in businesses. Firm-level surveys usually raise the issue of the degree of trust one can grant to respondents since corruption surveys typically involve questions that are politically sensitive, sometimes embarrassing, or subject to criminal penalties. The authors argue that, as a result, traditional measures of corruption underreport the extent of business corruption and existing strategies to evaluate and elicit truthful responses have limited effectiveness. Introducing a Randomised Response Technique in the design of firm-level surveys in Bangladesh, the authors set up a way to control for respondent honesty.

<http://go.worldbank.org/709E3WVQ40>

Kenya Open Data

Open Kenya| Transparent Africa, 2011

On July 8th, the Kenyan government launched an open data portal which aggregates information from various government agencies. The first of its kind in the region, the data portal includes information on budget spending, parliamentary proceedings, detailed statistics on demographics and service delivery, among others. The data is presented in various formats - map, tables, interactive charts and raw data for technical users. It is foreseen that this portal will be a valuable resource for researchers, along with journalists and civil society actors.

<http://www.opendata.go.ke/>

Rule of Law Index 2011

The World Justice Project, 2011

The Rule of Law Index is a quantitative assessment tool designed to offer a comprehensive picture of the extent to which countries adhere to the rule of law. The Index presents a comprehensive set of indicators on the rule of law from the perspective of the ordinary person. It examines practical situations in which a rule of law deficit may affect the daily lives of ordinary people. For example, it evaluates whether citizens can access public services without the need to bribe a government officer. The Index provides new data on the following nine dimensions of the rule of law: limited government powers, absence of corruption, order and security, fundamental rights, open government, effective regulatory enforcement, access to civil justice, effective criminal justice, informal justice.

<http://worldjusticeproject.org/rule-of-law-index/>



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“2010 was the fifth consecutive year in which global freedom suffered a decline—the longest period of setbacks for freedom in the nearly 40-year history of the report.”

Freedom House, 2011

“In spite of recent movements towards openness and political freedoms that have positioned many [Latin American] countries at the forefront in protecting basic rights and liberties, the region's public institutions remain fragile...In Argentina and Mexico, for instance, only 15 percent of the people believe that institutions will act effectively in cases of corruption.”

The World Justice Project, 2011

HIGHLIGHTS IN ANTI-CORRUPTION RESEARCH

“[T]he relevant standards for defining institutional corruption include a public interest standard and a private procedural standard. These twin standards show how corrosive institutional corruption can be: it involves both social injury (corruption by the institution), whether illegal or not, and institutional injury (corruption of the institution).”

Malcolm S. Salter, 2011

“Technology for transparency and accountability tools need not be sophisticated, but it does need intelligent design that is relevant to the local context. Projects also have a better chance of effectively producing change when they take a collaborative approach.”

Renata Avilla et al., 2011

UNDERSTANDING CORRUPTION

Lawful but Corrupt: Gaming and the Problem of Institutional Corruption in the Private Sector

Malcolm S. Salter, 2011

In this paper Malcolm S. Salter provides a new perspective on institutional corruption in businesses through the concept of “gaming”, which refers to the act of subverting the intent of rules or laws without technically breaking them. The paper puts forward three main hypotheses. First, lobbying by business interests during the rule-making process not only aims to minimise regulatory constraints, but also to ensure future gaming opportunities. Second, the gaming of rules is often fueled by the short-term incentives of both corporate executives and investment managers. Third, corporate boards become complicit in gaming when they allow these practices to take root and persist as an acceptable organisational norm.

<http://hbswk.hbs.edu/item/6599.html>

Corruption and Democracy in Brazil

Timothy J. Power & Matthew M. Taylor (eds.), 2011

The collection of essays in this book considers the performance of the federal accountability system in Brazil. The first section investigates the complex interrelationships among representative institutions, electoral dynamics, and public opinion. In the second section, authors address non-electoral dimensions of accountability, such as the role of the media, accounting institutions, police, prosecutors, and courts. In the final chapter, the editors reflect upon the policy implications of the essays.

<http://undpress.nd.edu/book/P01452>

Bribes, Lobbying and Development

Bard Harstad and Jakob Svensson, 2011

In this article the authors ask when the benefits of lobbying start to outweigh those of bribery. Using a dynamic statistical model, the authors demonstrate that a company operating under a regulatory regime is more likely to bribe a bureaucrat when a firm has low levels of capital investment. Once the level of investment increases, bureaucrats begin demanding higher bribes and when bribes reach a certain level, the company chooses lobbying for deregulation rather than continue providing payments to bend the rules. In this case, lobbying is more effective since it ‘changes’ the rules rather than ‘bends’ them through bribery.

<http://www.kellogg.northwestern.edu/faculty/harstad/html/bl.pdf>

FIGHTING CORRUPTION

Global Mapping of Technology for Transparency and Accountability

Renata Avilla et al., 2011

This paper documents current trends in the way technology is being used to promote transparency in different parts of the world. It reviews over 100 projects from across Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America, examining how new technologies are re-energising traditional methods. In particular, it focuses on how these new technologies are helping to engage different actors from citizens, media, authorities and the private sector.

<http://tinyurl.com/3w2dasy>

Curbing Corruption in Asia – An Impossible Dream?

John S.T. Quah, 2011

This book analyses and evaluates the anti-corruption strategies employed in a cross-section of Asian countries - Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Mongolia, the Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, and Thailand. These countries are selected because they represent the three major patterns of corruption control with Japan adopting Pattern 1 (anti-corruption laws without any anti-corruption agency); India, the Philippines and Taiwan employing Pattern 2 (anti-corruption laws with multiple anti-corruption agencies); and, Singapore, Hong Kong, Thailand, South Korea, Indonesia, and Mongolia belonging to Pattern 3 (anti-corruption laws with a single anti-corruption agency).

<http://tinyurl.com/3njzo9p>

Anti-Corruption: The Indirect Big-Bang Approach

Bo Rothstein, 2011

In this article Rothstein argues that in countries where corruption is wide-spread and systemic, incremental institutional changes based on the advice from the international “good governance regime” are unlikely to work. These reforms are based on the theory that corruption is a ‘principle agent problem’ - that is to say that corruption exists due to an asymmetry in information, and if only the everyday citizens simply knew what the corrupt policy-makers were doing, they could choose a cleaner alternative. Rothstein argues that, instead, corruption should be seen more as a ‘collective action problem’, thus requiring a major “big bang” type of reform. He illustrates an example of such a reform based on the case of 19th century Sweden.

http://www.qog.pol.gu.se/publications/Anti-corruption_published_version.pdf

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Building Integrity and Countering Corruption in Defence and Security: 20 Practical Reforms

Mark Pyman & Anne-Christine Wegener, 2011
 Drawing on over 3 years of work and contribution of experts from 35 countries, this handbook offers recommendations on ways to diagnose corruption risks and on how to lead change in defence and security establishments. It includes discussions on military operations, the procurement process, and budgets and assets, and show how nations are tackling corruption risks in each of these areas.
<http://www.ti-defence.org/publications/88-defence-&security-handbook/>

Ethics in Transitional Economies

Catharine Stevulak, 2011
 Public sector reform efforts to combat corruption in former Soviet Union countries have, to date, focused heavily on control and compliance measures, such as the adoption of legal frameworks. This paper argues that compliance-based approaches are necessary but not sufficient. It explores the potential of integrity-based approaches to ethical public sector behaviour, using examples from both the public and private sectors. It also identifies some critical success factors in building public sector integrity in transitional societies.
<http://tinyurl.com/43wxtg5>



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FEATURED CURRICULUM

COMPETITIVENESS AND CORRUPTION

Ohio Northern University College of Law

Developed by Professor Elena Helmer, the course is part of the curriculum of the Democratic Governance and Rule of Law LL.M. Program for public interest lawyers from transitional democracies and American lawyers interested in international development work. The course is mandatory for all LL.M. students, but is also open to regular Juris Doctorate (J.D.) students.

Competitiveness and Corruption perceives corruption as one of the main impediments to development and antithesis to competitiveness. The goal of the course is not only to stress the corrosive effect that corruption has on government, justice and efforts to develop truly free markets, but also to demonstrate how corruption can be successfully reduced and limited through reforms. The emphasis is on the legal side of corruption and anti-corruption, although significant class time is devoted to corruption's non-legal aspects.

Examples of course modules include:

1. Corruption and Its Costs

This section covers the nature of corruption, the concept of competitiveness, and how they relate to each other and to countries' economic development; the types of corruption; its causes and consequences.

2. Corruption and Law

National and international legal response to corruption - government ethics laws and regulation of civil service; domestic anti-bribery statutes; the U.S. Foreign Corrupt Practices Act; international anticorruption conventions; international law enforcement cooperation, etc.

3. Corruption and Democracy

This module discusses corruption and democratic institutions and regulation of campaign finance and lobbying.

4. Corruption and Business

This module examines the relationship between government and business and how it affects corruption. Other topics covered include, extra-legal (shadow) economy and corruption, and economic reforms.

5. Anti-corruption Reforms

This section covers successful and unsuccessful anti-corruption reforms and the lessons that can be learned on how to combat corruption.

The principal text for the course is "Corruption and Government" by Professor Susan Rose-Ackerman. For every class, the book is supplemented by extensive handouts from such diverse fields as law, economics, business/management, political science, and others. Throughout the semester students do multiple research assignments which require written reports and class presentations. The course ends with a take-home exam focusing on the practical application of the material covered throughout the semester.

For more information on this course, please contact Professor Elena Helmer at:

e-helmer@onu.edu

ACRN as a teaching resource

Are you currently teaching or developing a course on corruption? Let your students know about ACRN by listing it as a resource in your course syllabus.

ACRN will not only enable students to keep up with the latest findings in their area of research interest, it will also help them locate upcoming academic conferences and find fellowships and job opportunities related to corruption and governance.

RESEARCH PROJECTS & MARKETPLACE

Looking for an easy way to stay up to speed on the latest in corruption research, jobs, funding opportunities and course development? Subscribe to the ACRN Rss feed.

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www.corruptionresearchnet.work.org

RESEARCH PROJECTS

Governance Initiative

The Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL)

As part of its Political Economy and Governance program, J-PAL has launched the Governance Initiative (GI) to encourage and fund randomised impact evaluations of programs designed to improve participation in the political and policy process, and reduce leakages in public programs. By providing targeted funding for rigorous evaluations of the most promising programs to improve governance, GI aims to provide guidance for organisations and governments in developing countries as well as the donors who provide support to these countries, so that policies can be guided by scientific evidence on what works (or does not work). Through dissemination of findings to policymakers and by providing support for the scale-up and replication of successful programs, the Governance Initiative hopes to help translate this evidence into concrete policy change.

<http://www.povertyactionlab.org/political-economy-governance>

RESEARCH MARKETPLACE

Jobs and Consultancies

- **PhD Candidate in Law – Conflict of Interest in the Public Sector**

Basel Institute on Governance, Basel

The PhD candidate will develop a doctoral dissertation (in English) on types and instruments of regulation to control conflict of interest in the public sector and mechanisms to implement and enforce regulation in developed and developing countries. The aim will be to identify solutions to controlling conflict of interest that take into account the cultural context, strengths and weaknesses of the local governance systems with a focus on countries in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). Professor Dr. iur. Anne Peters L.L.M (Harvard), Vice-President of the Board of the Institute, will be the academic supervisor. Deadline for applications is 30 September 2011.

http://www.baselgovernance.org/fileadmin/docs/job_vacancies/27.08.2011_PhD_Conflict-of-Int_Pub-Sec.pdf

Jobs and Consultancies (contd.)

- **Knowledge and Stakeholder Services Director**

Transparency International, Berlin
The Knowledge and Stakeholder Services Department is a key part of the Research and Knowledge Group at the Transparency International Secretariat, and is responsible for knowledge gathering, knowledge sharing and the creation of learning channels across the Transparency International movement and beyond. Working in close collaboration with the Group Director, the Knowledge and Stakeholder Services Director will lead the Knowledge and Stakeholder Services Department and will be responsible for developing and delivering service-orientated programmes that focus on knowledge sharing and learning. Deadline for applications is 11 September 2011.

http://www.transparency.org/contact_us/work/jobs#Knowledge

- **Research Fellow – Principles, Politics and the Humanitarian System**

Overseas Development Institute, London
The ODI is seeking a Research Fellow to work on one or more themes within their Humanitarian Policy Group (HPG) research strategy, focusing particularly on 'Principles, politics and the humanitarian system'. The job would entail conducting high-quality applied research, disseminating and promoting HPG's work and ideas and attracting funds through bids and marketing, including the development of a substantial personal research portfolio. Deadline for applications is 11 September 2011.

<http://tinyurl.com/3rbwk24>

- **Country Assessors – Defence Anti-Corruption Metric for Governments and Armed Forces**

Transparency International UK, Defence and Security Programme, London
Transparency International UK's (TI-UK) International Defence and Security Programme plans to establish a global index to measure levels of integrity and corruption in national defence and security establishments worldwide, entitled the Defence Anti-Corruption Metric for Governments and Armed Forces. They are looking for suitably qualified and motivated experts to work as Country Assessors and Peer Reviewers. Please see link for more details. Applications are due by 14 September 2011.

<http://www.ti-defence.org/recruitment/defence-metric>

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RESEARCH MARKETPLACE

Funding Opportunities

- Six International Fellowships: Social Science Research Project**
 University Freiburg's young academics research project, "Universality and Acceptance Potential of Social Science Knowledge – On the circulation of knowledge between Europe and the Global South", is offering six international fellowships for doctoral and post-doc researchers. The international fellows can spend up to four months in Freiburg between November 2011 and December 2013. Applications are due by 30 September 2011.
<http://www.gesellschaftswissen.uni-freiburg.de/news/six-international-fellowships-at-our-project>

Calls for papers

- International Political Science Association (IPSA) World Congress 2012**
 Under the title of "Reshaping power, shifting boundaries", the 2012 IPSA World Congress will examine the need to re-conceptualise power in a globalised world, for example in terms of legitimacy, sovereignty or questions of global governance/locality. In light of shifting boundaries within political science and between disciplines and the increasing importance of space and scale in political science thinking, it will consider the tools and multi-method approaches that are needed to respond to these changes.
<http://www.ipsa.org/events/congress/madrid2012/congress-theme>
- 11th Annual International Young Researchers Conference - Post-Communist Corruption: Causes, Manifestations, Consequences**
 After more than two decades of research on post-communist transformations, a consensus has emerged that corruption is a major phenomenon associated with the evolution of the region. The purpose of this conference is to explore the analytical, conceptual and comparative dimensions of this phenomenon and to examine recent empirical findings and field work on corruption in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.
<http://d-princetonian.livejournal.com/245039.html>

- The 2011 Anti-Corruption Research Network (ACRN) Research paper competition**

We would like to invite submissions from young researchers for our annual anti-corruption research paper competition. The competition gives young scholars an opportunity to take up the challenge of filling important knowledge gaps in the field, present innovative approaches for measuring and understanding corruption and showcase new findings on what works and what does not in tackling corruption and ensuring sound governance. Submissions can be on any topic related to corruption. Please see link for more details.

<http://corruptionresearchnetwork.org/marketplace/resources/the-2011-acrn-research-paper-competition>

Upcoming Events

- Forms of Corruption in History and in Contemporary Society: Origins, Continuity, Evolution**
 14 – 16 Sep 2011, Paris, France
 Organised by Ars Identitatis Cultural Research Association, possible topics of the conference include: corruption and the writing of history, corrupted laws, corrupted political or religious figures, corruption in political systems, totalitarianism and corruption, specific laws on corruption and their different effects in different historical times, race and corruption, etc.
<http://www.ars.identitatis.org/>
- Reforming Social Protection Systems in Developing Countries**
 20 – 21 Oct 2011, Bochum, Germany
 This conference is convened by the Institute of Development Research and Development Policy (IEE) at the Ruhr-University of Bochum, Germany, together with Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). It will provide an international platform for academics, policy-makers, and experts from public and private bodies. The two overarching questions of the conference are: What are major determinants explaining reform successes and reform failures? What are successful strategies in building political and public support for these reforms?
<http://social-protection-conference.com/index.html>



Would you like to be a conference reporter for ACRN?

*The American Political Science Association (APSA) annual meeting is taking place in Seattle from 1 – 14 September 2011. There are quite a few interesting sessions at this conference on corruption and governance. If you are one of the attendants of the conference then you are invited to share your impressions with the rest of the ACRN community by **blogging** with us.*

Please get in touch for more information:
acrn_editor@transparency.org