

**A Report on**  
***the activities of the Interdisciplinary Corruption Research Network (ICRN)***  
**2015-2019**  
**&**  
***the proceedings of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Interdisciplinary Corruption Research Forum (ICRF)***  
**15-16 June 2017 in Paris, France and the 4<sup>th</sup> ICRF 13-14 June 2019 in Kyiv, Ukraine**

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## Introduction

### Report Objective

In recognition of the support received from the Laboratory for the Interdisciplinary Evaluation of Public Policies (LIEPP) for the purpose of organizing international forums at Sciences Po on the 15-16<sup>th</sup> June 2017 and in Kyiv on 13-14<sup>th</sup> June 2019, we, the Interdisciplinary Corruption Research Network (hereinafter “ICRN” or “the Network”), have compiled the following report on the activities of the Network since its founding in 2015 up to June 2019 as well as on the proceedings and results of the 2017 Paris Forum and 2019 Kyiv Forum.

The ICRN is grateful for the support of LIEPP, which began at the Network’s inception and continues until today. We are hopeful that this report on the Network’s growth and activities can provide valuable lessons to other similar groups aiming to form interdisciplinary research networks.

### Background

The ICRN was established in 2015 by a group of junior researchers from major European academic centers who aimed to reconcile interdisciplinary perspectives into a constructive outlet for the progression of scientific research on corruption. Interest in forming the Network stemmed in part from research activities at Sciences Po Paris, sponsored by LIEPP, including a 2014 workshop titled [“The Invisible and the Immeasurable: Towards Alternative Indicators of Corruption”](#) and a 2015 guest lecture by Bo Rothstein, titled [“Quality of Government & Development Policy”](#) also sponsored by LIEPP. At these events, junior researchers from various European institutions recognized their corresponding interests in corruption and anti-corruption policy research and endeavored to form an informal Network for research collaboration purposes.

The administrative core of the ICRN consists of an interdisciplinary group of junior scholars with close links to the major academic centers of Europe, including Sciences Po, the University of Gothenburg, Ruhr University Bochum, Charles University, University Duisburg-Essen, University of Amsterdam, Tel Aviv University, and University of Düsseldorf. The goal of the network is to build an academic community committed to carrying out excellent comparative interdisciplinary research on corruption in order to facilitate intellectual exchange, collaboration, research initiation, and research dissemination.

The ICRN’s main activity has been to organize an annual interdisciplinary corruption research forum that brings together junior researchers with practitioners, including NGO representatives, policymakers, journalists, and others engaged in the fight against corruption. Forums are organized around workshops that enable exchange between participants on their various research pursuits as well as key note speeches by more senior researchers. As of June 2019, the ICRN has organized three successful forums, including:

- ICRForum Kyiv, “Varieties of (anti)corruption: Learning from the past for the future,” 13-14 June 2019

- ICRForum Gothenburg, “Mechanisms of Corruption: Regional Perspectives and Potential Solutions,” 7-9 June 2018
- ICRForum Paris, “How to conceptualize corruption? Understanding corruption to design effective policies,” 15-16 June 2017
- ICRForum Amsterdam, “How to research corruption?” 17-18 June 2016

The 2019 ICRF just took place the 13-14<sup>th</sup> June, 2019 in Kyiv, Ukraine on the topic of “Varieties of (anti)corruption: Learning from the past for the future.” (See Annex: 4<sup>th</sup> ICRF Kyiv Program) Significant funding and support for this most recent forum was provided by the LIEPP and enabled key note speakers and participants from around the world to participate.

The annual forums have spurred significant other activities for the Network, including the organization of panels at academic conferences, numerous publications, teaching collaborations and policy activities. The ICRN has developed strong partnerships that continue to produce new opportunities for collaboration on research and policy activities. Many of these developments, outlined herein, trace their origins to the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Forum in Paris and the continued support of LIEPP. This report is dedicated to overviewing the activities of the Network since its founding in 2015 and the results of the 2017 Paris Forum and the most recent 2019 Kyiv Forum.

## Interdisciplinary Corruption Research Network (ICRN)

### Network Organization

In 2015, nine junior researchers from major European academic centers founded the ICRN with the aim to reconcile interdisciplinary perspectives into a constructive outlet for the progression of scientific research on corruption.

*We believe that exchange and collaboration are paramount to foster the understanding of the complex and socially harmful phenomenon of corruption.*

The ICRN has grown through activities, collaborations and outreach with its annual forum attracting hundreds of applications from over 50 countries and its closed Facebook group with over 700 members and growing daily.

The network is coordinated by a core administrative team (see below) in charge of planning and overseeing activities throughout the year. These activities can be initiated and coordinated by network members through working groups (WG), if not undertaken directly by the administrative team. Currently, there is a WG on public integrity which has launched a series of workshops, one being held at the LIEPP in November 2018; a WG on gender and corruption; a WG on



corruption in conflict-afflicted zones; as well as a regional WG coordinating ICRN activities in South-East Asia.

### Core Administrative Team

From its genesis, the ICRN has been directed by [a core group of junior scholars](#) with close links to the major academic centers of Europe, including Sciences Po, the University of Gothenburg, Ruhr University Bochum, Charles University, University Duisburg-Essen, University of Amsterdam, Tel Aviv University, and University of Düsseldorf. Despite being spread across the European continent, the administrative team has communicated routinely via conference calls and group chats in order to keep up-to-speed with various initiatives and up-coming events. The team maintains an online task coordination platform that allows them to delegate and manage specific tasks prior to forums and other activities.

Regarding the organization of the Forum, the Network's largest annual event, the core administrative team separates into committees that then manage discrete tasks such as preparing the call for applications, vetting applicants, preparing the program, etc. Additionally, for each annual Forum, the Network has selected a venue where members of the administrative team are present on the ground to assist with venue preparation.

The ICRN core administrative team has been the lifeblood of the Network. By sharing the coordination and outreach task amongst themselves, the team has been able to more effectively and efficiently organize activities and expand the Network. The team is currently composed of ten



members, listed below. The team was initially composed of eight members, until Aiysha Varraich and Marina Povitkina were added after they coordinated the 3<sup>rd</sup> ICRForum in Gothenburg. The core team has been stable since the inception of the network but the goal is to make the network sustainable by progressively establishing a rotation of the administrative team.

Jessica Ansart, Law, Sciences Po Paris

Annika Engelbert, PhD, Law, Ruhr University Bochum

Steven Gawthorpe, PhD, Social Science, Charles University

Oksana Huss, PhD, Political Science, University Duisburg-Essen

Nils Köbis, PhD, Social Psychology, University of Amsterdam

Ina Kubbe, PhD, Political Science, Tel Aviv University

Marina Povitkina, PhD, Political Science, University of Gothenburg

Anna Schwickerath, PhD candidate, Political Science, University of Dusseldorf

Ayisha Varraich, PhD candidate, Political Science, University of Gothenburg

Sofia Wickberg, PhD candidate, Political Science, Sciences Po Paris

### Advisory Board

Although bringing together junior researchers is at the core of the ICRN's mission, the Network's founders knew that creating an advisory board of senior scholars, well-established within the field would be a key to the ICRN's development and scholarly integrity. Upon its founding, the Network core team therefore prioritized bringing together an interdisciplinary advisory board that could provide insight from their own individual experiences, guide the Network on both its organizational goals and research orientation, as well as attend events and engage in scholarly debates and discussions with members.

The current Advisory Board is composed of seven members representing diverse backgrounds and unique orientations in the field of corruption research. Advisory Board members are regularly updated on Network activities and their advice is specifically solicited when questions arise pertaining to research or activity organization. Advisory Board members have attended annual forums and delivered keynote speeches as well as connected the ICRN to potential partners such as the UNODC E4J initiative and even worked hand-in-hand with Network members on new initiatives, most notably the Kickback podcast. In these respects, the Advisory Board has been indispensable to the Network's growth and success.

Current Advisory Board Members include:

- [Jean Ensminger](#), California Institute of Technology
- [Paul Heywood](#), University of Nottingham
- [Johann Graf Lambsdorff](#), University of Passau
- [Bo Rothstein](#), Quality of government Institute, University of Gothenburg
- [Luis de Sousa](#), University of Lisbon
- [Matthew C. Stephenson](#), Harvard Law School
- [Janine Wedel](#), George Mason University

### Development of Activities

#### Forums.

The Network's main activity remains organizing an annual interdisciplinary corruption research forum that brings together junior researchers with practitioners, including NGO representatives, policymakers, journalists, and others engaged in the fight against corruption. Beginning in 2016, the Network has held four Forums across Europe, in different locations where at least one member of the Network's core administrative team has been on the ground to coordinate the forum's organization. Additionally, the



ICRN has partnered with local institutions, usually academic research centers, to host and support the Forum's activities. Forums are at the core of the Network's overall activities because they present the best opportunity for members to come together in-person to collaborate on research efforts as well as to develop on-going and future Network activities, including publications as well as teaching events and partnerships.

Forums have developed to consist of three types of workshops enabling exchange between participants, including:

- *Promotion Sessions or Presentations of preliminary results* aimed at identifying gaps in the existing research, instigating further joint research, and initiating more evidence-based policy work;
- *Presentation of work in progress* aimed at initiating joint edited volumes; and
- *Co-creation sessions* aimed at starting new collaborations and research.

*Past and Up-coming Forums:*

- ICRForum Kyiv, "Varieties of (anti)corruption: Learning from the past for the future," 13-14 June 2019.
- ICRForum Gothenburg, "Mechanisms of Corruption: Regional Perspectives and Potential Solutions," 7-9 June 2018
- ICRForum Paris, "How to conceptualise corruption? Understanding corruption to design effective policies," 15-16 June 2017
- ICRForum Amsterdam, "How to research corruption?" 17-18 June 2016



*Forum Participants:*

In terms of participation, the Forums have attracted applications from around the world and participants have reflected the Network's interdisciplinary and international goals. Records for 2017-2018 demonstrate this diversity:

- 2018 ICRForum Gothenburg: 59 participants from 35 countries
- 2017 ICRForum Paris: 80 participants from 25 countries

### Panels.

Members have organized panels at the OECD Global Anti-Corruption & Integrity Forum, the International Conference on Public Policy and the European Consortium for Political Research Conference.

#### *Academic panels and sections:*

- 2016: ECPR General Conference in Prague - Corruption and Norms P070
- 2017: ICCP3 Singapore – Corruption as a Public Problem: Do Policymakers Need a New Perspective? T09P14
- 2018: ECPR General Conference in Hamburg - The Politics of Corruption and Anti-Corruption Around the World S74
- 2019 (upcoming): ECPR General Conference in
  - Together We Can Do So Much: Collective Action Initiatives in Tackling Corruption - P435
  - Corruption: Conceptual Issues and Empirical Studies - P469

#### *Policy-relevant panel:*

- 2019: OECD Global Anticorruption and Integrity Forum – New Perspectives: Culture of Integrity

### Publications.

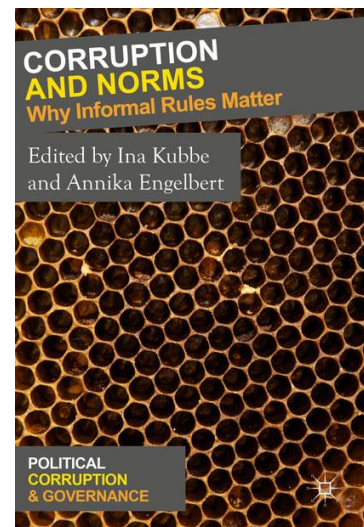
Members have published together numerous articles, special issues and edited volumes. The ICRForums have provided critical opportunities for co-authors to meet to present their work as well as receive feedback that ultimately helps advance the project. ICRN members have thus far coordinated the publication of the following research projects:

#### *Edited Volume:*

- Ina Kubbe and Annika Engelbert, *Corruption and Norms: Why Informal Rules Matter* (Cham: Palgrave Macmillan, 2018)

#### *Special Issue:*

- Ina Kubbe, Annika Engelbert, “The Role of Law in Curbing Corruption,” *Crime, Law and Social Change* 70, no. 3 (2018), available at:  
[https://link.springer.com/journal/10611/70/3?wt\\_mc=alerts.TOCjournals&utm\\_source=toc&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=toc\\_10611\\_70\\_3](https://link.springer.com/journal/10611/70/3?wt_mc=alerts.TOCjournals&utm_source=toc&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=toc_10611_70_3).
- Ina Kubbe, Annika Engelbert, “Corruption and the Impact of Democracy,” *Crime, Law and Social Change* 70, no. 2 (2018), available at: <https://link.springer.com/journal/10611/70/2/page/1>.



### Teaching activities.

As a network, we have organized university courses, supported the development of the UNODC E4J teaching modules, co-organized workshops and summer schools and helped create a Massive Open Online Teaching Course.

### *Summer schools:*

- 2016: Summer school Kyiv – Anti-corruption Research and Education Center (ACREC), National University of Kyiv (<https://www.icrnetwork.org/what-we-do/joint-teaching-activities/summer-school-kyiv-2016/>)
- 2017: Methods School on Corruption and Corruption Control Analysis Lisbon - ICS-ULisboa (<https://www.icrnetwork.org/what-we-do/joint-teaching-activities/summer-school-lisbon-2017/>)

### *UNODC Education for Justice (E4J) University Modules:*

- Integrity and Ethics: <https://www.unodc.org/e4j/en/tertiary/integrity-ethics.html>
- Anti-corruption: <https://www.unodc.org/e4j/en/tertiary/anti-corruption.html>

### Podcast.

Why are some people corrupt while others are not? Does power corrupt? How can digital technologies contribute to curbing corruption? Which institutional framework is most effective to combat corruption?

These are some of the many questions that have fascinated ICRN members about corruption research. In the interest of bringing people who are similarly by such questions closer together and spark a debate about corruption beyond the purely academic discourse, Network members collaborated to start, [KickBack: The Global Anticorruption Podcast](#).

The podcast project is founded by ICRN Member and Co-Founder, Nils Kobis, and ICRN Advisory Board Member, Professor Matthew Stephenson, along with ICRN Member Christopher Starke. The three interview leading experts on corruption and anti-corruption including researchers, journalists, prosecutors and civil actors. Recent episodes have featured:

- Pulitzer-prize winning investigative journalist Frederik Obermaier, best known for his work on the Panama Papers and the Strache Video while working for Süddeutsche Zeitung. (May 27, 2019)
- Professor and ICRN Advisory Board Member Bo Rothstein, also August Röhss Chair in Political Science and the co-founder of the Quality of Government Institute at the University of Gothenburg. (May 13, 2019)
- Professor Paul Lagunes, Assistant Professor at Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs.



## Partnerships

The ICRN has established numerous relationships including formal partnerships with universities, research centers and international organizations throughout Europe. These partners have collaborated with the Network on specific activities such as organizing annuals forums, collaborating on research projects and teaching initiatives, as well as providing funding opportunities to ensure that Network members can participate in such activities.

Past and current partners include:



## Conclusion: Future Development of the Network

As the ICRN approaches its fifth year of activities, it is poised to reflect upon its successes as well as the challenges it faces. The Network has thus far relied on the volunteer efforts of its organizational team for the organization and administration of activities. Furthermore, the Network has remained an informal organization without a legal status that could enable it to accept funding directly as well as have other more formal organizational elements. On the one hand, the informal nature of the Network has been one of its strengths allowing members to nimbly react to change and develop ideas and activities in an unrestrained fashion. However, if the Network wishes to continue to grow and be inclusive, especially of those from developing country contexts and junior researchers, generally, who lack funding, it may become important to have a legal entity capable of receiving and raising funds to support these efforts. The ICRN core administrative team intends to meet in 2019 to discuss exactly these issues and develop a strategic plan that takes the Network forward into the coming five years.

## 2nd Interdisciplinary Corruption Research Forum (ICRF), Paris

### Background

From its founding, the ICRN was inspired by the 2014 meeting at Sciences Po Paris on the theme [“The Invisible and the Immeasurable: Towards Alternative Indicators of Corruption”](#) and wanted to continue discussion and research collaboration on this issue. For this reason, the Network sought support from LIEPP to organize its second annual forum at Sciences Po on the topic, [“How to conceptualize corruption? Understanding corruption to design effective policies.”](#) With LIEPP’s organizational and financial support, the ICRN aimed to gather together in Paris an interdisciplinary group of junior researchers interested in linking corruption research with effective anti-corruption policy design. The Forum ultimately attracted substantial attention from other organizations desiring to support the conference such as the United

Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Education for Justice (“E4J”) Initiative, from practitioners actively engaged in policy-making such as national ministries and the OECD, and from a diverse group of junior researchers representing numerous disciplines and nationalities, but united in their work on corruption issues.



### Aims of the Forum

The 2017 Paris Forum sought to address shortcomings in the current state of art in corruption research. The aim of the Forum was three-fold: First, to provide a pioneering and unique setting outside the confines of individual research disciplines, enabling junior researchers to exchange ideas and initiate collaborative projects with their peers. Second, to serve as a bridge for knowledge transfer between researchers in academia and practitioners from the policy sphere. And third, to further coalesce the Network’s members, frame its objectives, and establish its next organizational steps.

By locating the conference at Sciences Po in Paris, the ICRN aimed to leverage this venue and location to achieve its overall aims. First, the Network benefited from the central and relatively accessible within Europe location of Paris as well as the notoriety of Sciences Po to attract a diverse group of junior researchers from around the world. More than 200 applications were received from over 60 countries. Second, the ICRN drew upon the Sciences Po community as well as other policy stakeholders such as representatives from the OECD and French ministries in order to congregate some of the top European policy thinkers on this issue. Finally, the ICRN organizers planned to devote side meetings to discussing high-level organizational issues as an organizational team as well as with members of the Network advisory board and members of the LIEPP. As will further be elaborated in the following sections, the June 2017 Paris forum proved successful on all counts by bringing together researchers and policy practitioners to discuss policy issues as well as to engage members on the organization and future of the Network.

### Forum Program

The overall theme of the Forum was “How to conceptualize corruption? Understanding corruption to design effective policies.” It was executed during the span of two days in the form of 12 workshop sessions

with over 30 presentations across all sessions, along with four keynote addresses, a poster session, and a plenary session organized with the UNODC E4J Initiative.

During workshops, several presenters provided a brief overview of their research be it a near final project or preliminary research results. Forum attendees selected which workshops they wished to attend, which frequently led to a diverse group of disciplines in each workshop. Presenters and attendees then engaged in lively discussion regarding the research methodology, findings and/or policy application, often with presenters seeking feedback from other disciplinary approaches than his or her own.

The workshops covered the following topics:

- The Role of Data: How Can Indicators Be Useful for Combatting Corruption?
- The Impact of International Assistance on Domestic Anti-Corruption Strategies
- Compliance, Competition and Corruption: Private-Sector Perspectives
- Corruption and the Impact of Democracy
- Historical Roots of Corruption
- Conceptualizing Corruption in Fragile States
- The Importance of Social Norms in Designing Anti-Corruption Mechanisms
- Corruption and the Role of Law
- Corruption in Public Administration
- How to Successfully Implement International Legal Norms in National Anti-Corruption Contexts
- Anti-Corruption Policies and Practices in Post-Soviet and Eastern European States
- Corruption and Norms

During the keynote addresses, senior scholars or practitioners discussed their own work and the challenges they face, but also significantly focused on where the field should be going, what questions should be asked next, and how to approach research and policy challenges in a new light. Each address closed with questions and answers as well as a general discussion with the audience. The speeches provided participants with the opportunity to draw inspiration from key works in the field for research initiation as well as identify research gaps for formulating new research questions. Keynote speakers included both academics and practitioners to provide insights from both academia and the policy world.

The keynote speeches included: Professor Kath Hall's address "Don't forget the Whistleblower: Challenges;" Julio Bacio-Terracino's remarks on his work in the OECD's Public Sector Integrity Division; Professor Paul Heywood's address "Rethinking Corruption: Hocus-Pocus, Locus and Focus;" and Professor Matthew Stephenson's remarks titled, "Scattered Thoughts and Musings on the Future of Anticorruption Research."

Posters were displayed throughout the two-day span, so that attendees would be free to walk around and observe the posters that presented the research findings of their creator. Attendees could leave post-it note questions or comments on the posters for their creators, if the researcher was not at that moment present beside his or her work. The researchers often could be found during coffee breaks or lunches beside their research so that they could actively engage with other attendees regarding their research.

The final session of the 2017 Paris Forum was a plenary session led by representatives of the UNODC E4J Initiative. As a financial and organizational supporter of the Forum, and the Network more broadly, the E4J team used this final session to discuss its project aimed to foster learning opportunities on the rule of law and anti-corruption efforts, among other topics. While the E4J Initiative broadly focuses on bolstering educational opportunities at all levels, the Initiative developed its relationship with the ICRN in the context of its specific focus on tertiary education. In particular, the E4J used this session to present its current work, including compiling anti-corruption course curriculums and making them open-source and widely accessible online, but also to field ideas for further useful tools that could support junior researchers as well as new and future professors in the field. This session was led by an E4J representative, but included interventions by numerous individuals already assisting in the UNODC initiative who could share their experience.

## Organization

The 2017 Paris Forum was largely organized by members of the ICRN based at Sciences Po with significant support from the LIEPP as well as from the UNODC E4J team.

ICRN Members and LIEPP affiliates, Sofia Wickberg, PhD candidate, and Jessica Ansart, JD/LLM candidate jointly with Georgetown University Law Center and Sciences Po, represented the organizational core from the ICRN side, but were significantly supported by other ICRN members based outside of Paris, including:

- Annika Engelbert, PhD, Law, Ruhr University Bochum
- Steven Gawthorpe, PhD, Social Science, Charles University
- Oksana Huss, PhD candidate, Political Science, University Duisburg-Essen
- Nils Köbis, PhD, Social Psychology, University of Amsterdam
- Ina Kubbe, PhD, Political Science, Tel Aviv University
- Anna Schwickerath, PhD candidate, Political Science, University of Dusseldorf

The permanent staff of the LIEPP assisted both financially and organizationally with conference room reservations, hotel and travel bookings, purchasing supplies, arranging catering and other preparatory needs before and throughout the conference. Furthermore, Professor Nicolas Sauger, at the time Co-Director of LIEPP's Evaluation of Democracy Research Group, provided opening remarks to Forum participants.

The UNODC E4J program also assisted both financially and organizationally with the 2017 Forum. The UN provided every participant with a significant stipend at the UN rate for Paris that helped to cover travel, lodging and food. The E4J staff also helped identify potential Forum attendees, in particular those from usually underrepresented regions including Africa, Eastern Europe and Russia. Finally, E4J representatives helped organize and lead the final panel discussion session of the Forum that focused on presenting the E4J's work and discussing how Network members could collaborate further in E4J efforts.

Through an open call for applications, the organizing committee of the Forum received more than 200 applications from over 60 countries. The call invited prospective participants to submit abstracts of the work they planned to present during the Forum. The selection committee anonymously evaluated the

abstracts based on the quality of the submissions and the background of the participants, ensuring cultural and disciplinary diversity in line with the goals of the Network and its supporters.

## Outcomes

The Forum brought together over 70 junior scholars from diverse disciplinary backgrounds, including psychology, political science, social science, economics, history, and law, as well as practitioners from various non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and international organizations. Through the mix of workshops, keynote speeches, and the panel debate, the Forum provided the basis for academics to initiate interdisciplinary research on corruption relevant to the policy realm and helped practitioners to initiate more evidence-based policy work.

Three main results can be highlighted from the Forum.

### *Publications:*

First, the Forum substantially contributed to the institutionalization of (anti-)corruption research through generating research publications. Two of the Forum workshop sessions were dedicated to bringing together contributors to Network-initiated publications, both of which were successfully published following the Paris meeting. First, the edited volume titled [“Corruption and Norms: Why Informal Rules Matter”](#) was published by Palgrave Macmillan in 2018. Second, the special issue titled, [“The Role of Law in Curbing Corruption”](#) was published in the interdisciplinary academic journal *Crime, Law and Social Change*, also in 2018. Both publications were co-edited by Network founding members Annika Engelbert and Ina Kubbe. The Forum in June provided an invaluable opportunity for the editors of this volume and special issue to meet face-to-face with contributors and exchange views in preparation of publications as well as include the Forum participants in some of these discussions, therefore, increasing feedback and idea generation for their work.

### *E4J Cooperation and Development of Corruption Teaching Tools:*

Second, the Forum served as a launching pad for future collaboration between ICRN members and the UNODC E4J Initiative. Starting during preparations for the 2017 Paris Forum, Network Members Oksana Huss and Nils Köbis participated in a round table discussion with the UNODC in Vienna at the initiative of the E4J. In particular, the E4J wanted to work with the ICRN to develop online tools and academic resources pertaining to corruption that would be available free of charge to professors and students worldwide. These initial discussions were expanded upon at the Paris Forum, where all attendees were invited to participate in a brainstorming session. Forum attendees were invited to contribute to the development of the [E4J’s module series](#), which numerous ICRN members did contribute to with their own course syllabi, other materials, and general feedback. Most recently, in April 2019, three members of the ICRN joined the [evaluation workshop](#) of the E4J teaching modules at the Blavatnik School of Government in Oxford. The 2017 Paris Forum thus launched what has continued to be a fruitful collaborative effort between members of the ICRN and the UNODC on the E4J corruption teaching module project.



*OECD Cooperation & Knowledge Partnership:*

Third, the 2017 Paris Forum enabled the ICRN Members to cultivate important relations with practitioners and policymakers on the ground in Paris, in particular with the OECD. Following the participation of Julio Bacio-Terracino as a keynote speaker in Paris and attendance to the Forum by several of his OECD colleagues, the ICRN was able to leverage this new relationship into an invitation to the OECD's Global Anti-Corruption & Integrity Forum in 2018 and 2019. The Network has officially been named a Knowledge Partner of the Forum and most recently organized a panel titled, ["Behavioral Approaches to Anti-Corruption: An Integrity Turn?"](#) at the 2019 OECD Forum in Paris. This panel aimed to present recent findings from the ICRN that reflect an "integrity turn" of anti-corruption, with a central focus on first aggregate results of a meta-analysis on the existing collection of bribery games – providing a practical decision guideline to facilitate the choice and use of corruption games for academics and practitioners alike. The session was organized and led by ICRN founding members, Ina Kubbe and Sofia Wickberg.

[General Conclusions from the 2017 Paris Forum](#)

Both in terms of the substantive work that was conducted during the 2017 Paris Forum as well as the significant results including publications and collaborations that the Forum produced, the ICRN feels strongly it was able to meet its three aims of providing a unique setting for junior researchers to collaborate, bridging the academic and practitioner spheres, and further coalescing the Network. In particular, through the collaborations that the Network was able to launch in Paris by bringing together a mix of academics, international organizations and practitioners, the ICRN was able to develop new Network objectives and goals towards which its members could collaborate. The ongoing collaborations with the E4J Initiative and OECD are prime examples of this.

While Paris served as an important and significant launching pad for the ICRN's activities into 2018 and 2019, the Network has built upon this momentum and expanded into other new and important areas. The following section will highlight the ICRN's development, including its more recent and upcoming activities, in order to demonstrate how it has grown organizationally and in terms of activities since its conception in 2015.

## 4th Interdisciplinary Corruption Research Forum (ICRF), Kyiv

### Summary

The fourth annual ICRForum, organized under the theme, *“Varieties of (anti)corruption: Learning from the past to prepare the future”* was just recently held on 13 - 15 June 2019, at the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy in Kyiv, Ukraine. The Forum aimed to bring together an interdisciplinary group of international junior researchers and practitioners working on corruption and anti-corruption issues. (See Annex for 2019 ICRF Program) The 2019 forum gathered over 50 participants from a wide range of countries. Fresh on the heels of this event, the ICRN is in preliminary stages of evaluating the Forum and intends to provide information on the Forum outcomes in addition to this brief summary in the near future.



The ICRForum Kyiv was executed during the span of two days in the form of 19 panels, with over 40 presentations. The program enabled an exchange between scholars as well as between scholars and practitioners through three types of workshops: 1) presentations of preliminary results aimed at identifying gaps in the existing research, instigating further joint research, and initiating more evidence-based policy work; 2) presentation of work in progress aimed at initiating joint edited volumes; and 3) co-creation sessions aimed at starting new collaborations and research.

The panels for the presentation of preliminary results and work in progress covered the following topics:

- Travel the World – Anti-Corruption Around the Globe
- Quality of Institutions – What Makes Services and Administration Good?
- Bring it Back Home – Focus on Ukraine
- (Anti)Corruption Ex Machina
- The Importance of Social Accountability
- When Corruption Becomes Normal
- Policy Challenges: Regulations and Institutions
- Bring it Back Home: Focus on Ukraine
- Lex Dura: Law, Courts and (Anti)Corruption
- Zooming in: Corruption and Subnational Government

The co-creation workshops addressed the following issues:

- Handbook on Researching Corruption
- Around the World: Global Discourses on (Anti)Corruption
- Asset Recover and Corruption
- Norms, Reciprocity and Corruption
- ICRN Regional Focus on Indonesia
- E4J Module on Corruption and Human Rights
- Corruption, Migration and Brain-drain
- (Anti)Corruption Ex Machina
- Corruption and Gossip

Importantly, the topics of the panels and co-creation workshops reflect the research interests of the participants. They were developed in line with the themes suggested by the young researchers during their application to the Forum, reflecting the state of the art and current discussions in corruption research. The participants were able to partake in several workshops of their choice.

The two keynote speeches shed light on current research within the senior corruption scholars' research fields. The first speech, "New Directions in Anti-Corruption: Mapping Corruption and Influence Processes" was delivered by leading anthropologist and ICRN Advisory Board Member, Professor Janine Wedel. The second keynote, "Against All Odds: Fighting Path Dependency in Good Governance Building" was given by Professor Alina Mungiu-Pippidi of the Hertie School of Governance. These closed with sessions of questions and answers as well as a general discussion with the audience. The speeches provided participants with the opportunity to draw inspiration from key works in the field for research initiation as well as identify research gaps for formulating research questions in the Co-Creation workshops.

Following the final formal day of the Forum, participants were invited to join some informal team-building activities. Its purpose was to provide an informal setting for the Forum participants to engage in building their network. Many participants joined this extra day of inspiring informal discussions and network-building during a guided anti-corruption walk around Kyiv with local colleagues and a joint lunch.

## Conclusion

Following the ICRN's successful collaboration with the LIEPP during the Network's genesis as well as with the organization of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> ICRForums in Paris and Kyiv, respectively, the Network has established itself as a vibrant hub for junior scholars researching corruption and anti-corruption. As this report has demonstrated, the ICRN brings together an international and interdisciplinary group of young persons through a multitude of research activities. Furthermore, the Network has formed long-lasting partnerships with universities, research centers and international organizations well-established within the scholarly and practitioner field on corruption. While the Network remains young and informal, it is poised to address any subsequent challenges by leveraging its own experiences as well as the supervision and advice of its partners and advisors, including LIEPP.

## Annex

### 2nd ICRF Program

# How to conceptualize corruption?

Understanding corruption  
to design effective policies

2nd Interdisciplinary Corruption Research Forum

June 15-16 2017 Sciences Po Paris

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#### keynotes

Kath Hall – Australian National University / ACRN

Paul Heywood – Nottingham University

Matthew Stephenson – Harvard University



INTERDISCIPLINARY  
CORRUPTION RESEARCH  
NETWORK

[icrnetwork.org](http://icrnetwork.org)

## ***Program***

Thursday, 15 June 2017	
09:00 – 09:30	Registration and coffee
09:30 – 10:30	Welcome note from the ICRNetwork, LIEPP and UNODC representatives Getting to know each other
10:30 – 12:30	Workshop session I 1. The Role of Data: How Can Indicators Be Useful for Combatting Corruption? 2. The Impact of International Assistance on Domestic Anti-Corruption Strategies 3. How to Successfully Implement International Legal Norms in National Anti-Corruption Contexts 4. Corruption and the Impact of Democracy (authors' workshop)
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch
13:30 – 15:30	Workshop session II 1. Historical Roots of Corruption 2. Conceptualizing Corruption in Fragile States 3. The Importance of Social Norms in Designing Anti-Corruption Mechanisms 4. Corruption and the Role of Law (authors' workshop)
15:30 – 16:00	Coffee break
16:00 – 18:00	Keynote speeches Kath Hall, Australian National University: "Don't forget the Whistleblower: Challenges in Regulating for the Reporting of Corruption" Julio Bacio-Terracino, OECD
19:00	Dinner (Grand Marché Stalingrad, 6-8 Place de la Bataille de Stalingrad, Paris)



Friday, 16 June 2016	
09:00 – 10:00	Keynote speech Paul Heywood, University of Nottingham: "Rethinking Corruption: Hocus-Pocus, Locus and Focus"
10:00 – 10:30	Coffee break
10:30 – 12:30	Workshop session III 1. Corruption in Public Administration 2. Compliance, Competition and Corruption: Private-Sector Perspectives 3. Anti-Corruption Policies and Practices in Post-Soviet and Eastern European States 4. Corruption and Norms: Why informal rules matter (authors' workshop)
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch
14:00 – 15:00	Keynote speech Matthew Stephenson, Harvard University: "Scattered Thoughts and Musings on the Future of Anticorruption Research"
15:00 – 15:30	Coffee break
15:30 – 17:00	Plenary session: Education for Justice (E4J) Initiative, UNODC Ronan O'Laoire, UNODC Oksana Huss, University of Duisburg-Essen Nils Köbis, University of Amsterdam Matthew Ayibakuro, University of Birmingham Roxana Bratu, University College London Elitza Katzarova, University of Braunschweig Oksana Nesterenko, Anti-Corruption Research and Education Centre Muriel Poisson, International Institute for Educational Planning-UNESCO Laras Susanti, Universitas Gadjah Mada
17:00-17:30	Closing

## 2nd ICRF Workshop Proceedings

Workshop proceedings can be accessed from the ICRN website at this address:

[https://www.icrnetwork.org/app/download/11261767821/ICRForum-Paris\\_Conference-Proceedings\\_20180604.pdf?t=1528211697](https://www.icrnetwork.org/app/download/11261767821/ICRForum-Paris_Conference-Proceedings_20180604.pdf?t=1528211697)

## 4th ICRF Kyiv Program



### **"Varieties of (Anti-)Corruption: Learning from the Past for the Future"**



#### Thursday, 13 June 2019

08:30 – 09:00	Registration
09:00 – 09:45	Welcome note from the ICRNetwork Getting to know each other
10:00 – 11:30	Promotion Session I
11:30 – 12:00	Coffee Break
12:00 – 13:30	Work in Progress Session I
13:30 – 14:30	Lunch
14:30 – 16:00	Work in Progress Session II
16:15 – 17:00	Keynote Speech – Janine Wedel: "New Directions in Anti-Corruption: Mapping Corruption and Influence Processes"
19:00	Conference Dinner

**Friday, 14 June 2019**

09:00 – 10:30	Promotion Session II
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee Break
11:00 – 12:30	Co-Creation Session I
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch
13:30 – 15:00	Co-Creation Session II
15:00 – 15:30	Coffee Break
15:30 – 17:00	Co-Creation Session III
17:15 – 18:00	Keynote Speech – Alina Mungiu-Pippidi: "Against all Odds. Fighting Path Dependency in Good Governance Building"
18:00 – 18:30	Future Prospects and Goodbye

**Saturday, 15 June 2019**

10:15 – 14:00	Social Event - Anti-Corruption Walk and Joint Lunch, start at Arsenalna metro station
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#### Promotion Session I

##### Travel the World: Anti-Corruption around the Globe

Chair: Miranda Loli

Denisse Rodriguez Olivari: "Politics of anti-corruption in Brazil and Peru"

Elitza Katzarova: "The spread of anti-corruption policies: Three theoretical perspectives"

Lorenzo Crippa: "Cross-border corruption and the OECD Anti-bribery convention: Determinants of compliance"

Eduard Klein: "A new database on corruption in CEE"

##### Quality of Institutions: What Makes Services and Administration Good?

Chair: Nils Köbis

Jason Nkyabonaki: "Public expenditure tracking tool and corruption"

Ilona Wismulek: "Education systems, corruption and bribe-giving in Europe"

Nedim Hovic: "Whistleblower protection in Kosovo"

Emilia Vann Yarosan: "Institutional quality and pharmaceutical supply chain"

#### Work in Progress Session I

##### Bring it Back Home: Focus on Ukraine I

Chair: Oksana Nesterenko

Aliaksei Zhurauliou: "Corruption and middle schools in Ukraine"

Andrii Marhenko: "Building anti-corruption bodies in Ukraine"

Oleksandr Dluhopolskyi: "The resource curse in Ukraine"

##### (Anti)Corruption Ex Machina I

Chair: Roxana Bratu

Aiysha Varraich: "Blockchain as anti-corruption in public records"

Niklas Kossow: "Beyond the hype: Distributed ledger technology in the field of public administration"

Olugbemiga Afolabi: "The internet, whistleblowing and the fight against corruption in Africa"

##### The Importance of Social Accountability

Chair: Christopher Starke

Leticia Meniconi Barbabala: "Can policy signals break the corruption equilibrium?"

Jenny Bentley & Saul Mullard: "Counteracting the closing of spaces for civil society with youth driven innovation for accountability: Anticorruption networking in 'New' Nepal"

Alessandra Lo Piccolo: "Anti-corruption from below: a relational approach to the study of societal accountability."

Erkaiym Mambetalieva: "Anti-corruption education in Kyrgyzstan"



## Work in Progress Session II

### When Corruption Becomes Normal

Chair: Ina Kubbe

Joseph Pozsgai-Alvarez:  
"Sociopolitical norms,  
awareness and responses to  
incentives"

Riccardo D'Emidio: "Role of  
social norms as determinant of  
behaviour in Ghana's police  
service"

Angelina Symkina: "Corruption  
in the relations between the  
state and private business"

Oleksandr Lupalo: "Professionalism, control  
and corruption in the police"

### Policy Challenges: Regulations and Institutions

Chair: Sofia Wickberg

Julia Miralles de Imperial  
Pujol: "A corruption risk  
assessment IT tool for  
Spanish local government"

Benedict Stefani: "ACAs  
as anti-corruption tools  
against systematic  
corruption"

Felix Goldberg: "American  
lobbying regulation and  
corruption"

## Promotion Session II

### Bring it Back Home: Focus on Ukraine II

Chair: Andriy Meleshevych

Max Bader, Oksana Huss,  
Kristina Khambekova, Alina  
Los, Maria Mamedbekova,  
Oksana Nesterenko: "Civil  
society against corruption in  
Ukraine"

Veronika Beiher: "Anti-  
corruption reform in Ukraine"

### Lex Dura: Law, Courts and (Anti)Corruption

Chair: Aiysha Varraich

Jessica Ansart: "Casting a long  
shadow: The Impact of the  
FCPA on the international anti-  
corruption law"

Bruna De Castro a Silva: "Anti-  
corruption and human rights"

Stoyan Panov: "The European  
Public Prosecutor's Office"

Roxana Bratu: "Trade secrets  
and corruption"

### Zooming in: Corruption and Subnational Government

Chair: Steven Gawthorpe

Alexander Poulsen:  
"Checks and balances in  
Brazilian city councils"

Bartosz Czepil: "Quality of  
governance at the local  
level in Poland"

Dumilah Ayuningtyas: "The  
relationship between CPI  
and maternal mortality in  
Indonesian cities"

#### Co-creation Sessions

- |      |   |  |   |
|------|---|--|---|
| I.   | Ilona Wismulek: "Handbook on Researching Corruption"                    | David Jackson: "Norms, Reciprocity and Corruption"       | Khrystyna Potapenko: "Corruption, Migration and Brain-drain"      |
| II.  | Miranda Loli: "Around the World: Global Discourses on (Anti)Corruption" | Meta Aurelia: "ICRN Regional Focus on Indonesia"         | Christopher Starke & Nils Köbis: "(Anti)Corruption Ex Machina II" |
| III. | Jessica Ansart: "Asset Recovery and Corruption"                         | Alex Petkov: "E4J Module on Corruption and Human Rights" | Annika Nieper: "Corruption and Gossip"                            |