INVESTISSEMENTS D'AVENIR

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Interdisciplinary Corruption Research Network (ICRN)

The Interdisciplinary Corruption Research Network (ICRN) is a network of corruption researchers from different disciplinary, national and cultural backgrounds. Exchange and collaboration is paramount to foster the understanding of the complex and socially harmful phenomenon of corruption. The vision of the Interdisciplinary Corruption Research Network is to reconcile varying perspectives into a constructive outlet for the progression of scientific research on corruption. While the main ambition of the ICRN is to create a platform for exchange for scholars working on corruption, the network has also built partnerships with policy-makers and practitioners to to advice policy-making and to evaluate existing anti-corruption programmes and initiatives.

Evaluation of democracy research group

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Publications

- Kubbe, Ina and Engelbert, Annika. 2018. *Corruption and Social Norms Why Informal Rules Matter.* London, New York: Palgrave Macmillan.

- Schwickerath, Anna K. *How to conceptualize corruption? Conference Proceedings.* Paris: Interdisciplinary Corruption Research Forum, June 2017.

- Wickberg, Sofia. The evolving nature of evidence as used within the international anti-corruption community . *LIEPP Working Paper, forthcoming.*

Background

The ICRN was established in 2015 by a group of junior researchers from major European academic centers. The aim of the network is to reconcile interdisciplinary perspectives into a constructive outlet for the progression of scientific research on corruption.

Corruption is a complex multifaceted evolving phenomenon with grave social, political and economic consequences, that affects societies all over the world. Better knowledge of the various forms that corruption takes and the functions it plays is the foundation for effective solutions to the problem of corruption.

Despite the growing number of publications on corruption, the institutionalisation of the research field remains in its infancy. Against this background, the founding members of the ICRN created a platform for specialised academic exchange across disciplines and borders, to foster scientific collaboration, circulate existing knowledge and contribute to the perpetuation of corruption research.

Objectives

The overarching goal of the Interdisciplinary Corruption Research Network is to enhance the quality of scientific research on corruption, anti-corruption policy and public integrity, with the ambition to boost application of corruption research in policy-making and implementation.

The ICRN intends to achieve these goals in two main phases:

- Establishment of a network of scholars that fosters solidarity and exchange of research approaches and results from their respective disciplines.

- Introduction and integration of policy professionals and implementers into the network to build a bridge from scientific research on corruption to policy application.

This program is innovative insofar as it is the first interdisciplinary network of scholars committed to scientific research on corruption and good governance. Furthermore, it is a pioneering effort in knowledge transfer from academia to policy-making and implementation within these domains.

The objectives of the ICRN are:

- To cultivate underdeveloped perspectives and broaden the trajectory of corruption discourse

- To expand collaborative opportunities across professional and disciplinary boundaries

- To maintain independence against institutional constraints on membership eligibility, research, and policy priorities

Activities

- **Promotion of corruption research**

  The ICRN regularly coordinates research panels and sections within international conferences (ECPR, ICPP, ISPA...)

- **Publications**

  Members of the ICRN have published edited volumes and special issues on the role of social norms in corrupt practices and policy solutions, on the impact of democracy and the rule of law in curbing corruption and on corruption in the Middle East.

- **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 Course on corruption research.

- **Knowledge dissemination**

Network members started a collaborative project KickBack : The Global Anticorruption Podcast. The podcast series aim to share an expert knowledge on the topic and spark a debate about corruption beyond purely academic discourse.

Research Forums

The network's main activity is organizing an annual interdisciplinary corruption research forum that brings together (junior) researchers with practitioners, policymakers, journalists, and others engaged in the fight against corruption. Since 2016, the Network has held four Forums across Europe:

- ICRForum Amsterdam, "How to research corruption?" 17-18 June 2016
- ICRForum Paris, "How to conceptualise corruption? Understanding corruption to design effective policies," 15-16 June 2017
- ICRForum Gothenburg, "Mechanisms of Corruption: Regional Perspectives and Potential Solutions," 7-9 June 2018
- ICRForum Kyiv, "Varieties of (anti)corruption: Learning from the past for the future," 13-14 June 2019.
- ICRForum Bergen – upcoming in 2021.

Forums consist of three types of workshops: Promotion sessions for the presentation of existing research and preliminary results; Work-in-Progress sessions for sharing research projects; and Co-creation sessions aimed at starting new collaborations.

The Forums have attracted applications from around the world, reflecting the network's interdisciplinary and international goals:

- 2018 ICRForum Gothenburg: 59 participants from 35 countries
- 2017 ICRForum Paris: 80 participants from 25 countries
- 2016 ICRForum Amsterdam: 50 participants from 22 countries

Partnerships

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