

GOVERNANCE, CORRUPTION AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Instructor

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I. Objective and Learning Outcomes

The design and implementation of government policies depend on the actions and capacity of politicians and bureaucrats. For policies to be effective, they must be implemented according to programmatic criteria while avoiding leakage. This course will familiarise PhD students with the theory of corruption, transparency, and accountability in government, enabling them to critically address these questions and engage meaningfully in fast-moving contemporary policy debates and how this can affect public sector governance and decision-making processes.

During the course, we will explore questions such as: Why do politicians and bureaucrats engage in corruption? Are anti-corruption bodies effective? Is “sunlight the best disinfectant”? Can information empower citizens to hold their government accountable? How have information technologies been used to enable civic engagement and participation? What are the relationships between transparency, secrecy, corruption, and accountability?

Coursework and Grading

Coursework will be weighted as follows:

Your grade in this seminar will be based on your performance on three assignments (outlined below):

- Assignment 1: Active participation and Discussion Leader (20%)
- Assignment 2: Extended Conference Presentation (30%)
- Assignment 3: Final Paper (50%)

Topics Covered in the course

- Foundational concepts on corruption in the public sector
- Causes of public sector corruption
- Theories that explain corruption
- Good governance and accountability as a way to curb corruption
- Transparency in government, what it is, and its main effects
- The role of AI in enhancing transparency and reducing corruption