

**Transparency, Accountability and Corruption in South Asia (MA Seminar)
Summer Semester 2018**

Venue: SAI Room 316

Tuesday 1400 Hrs – 1600Hrs

Department of political science / Politische Wissenschaft- South Asia Institute Heidelberg University

Instructor:

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South Asia presents a paradox of high economic growth on one hand and equally acute corruption levels on the other. While the sub-region grew at 6 percent plus in the last decade, average corruption perception index score of 30 locates South Asia as most corrupt sub-region in the world. How do we make sense of this paradox? Surely, corruption touches the everyday life of the citizens and especially the poor. What does it mean for governance in South Asia? This seminar will try to unpack, understand and discover the what, why and how of both grand and petty corruption in south Asia.

Greater transparency of the state will surely impact the quantum of corruption. Indeed, the South Asian states have put in place transparency mechanisms to make the processes within the state more transparent. What are these mechanisms? How have they emerged? Have the changes in formal norms also resulted in similar changes in the informal norms or in other words related socio-political patterns? How effective are these policies? What is the role of transparency in development? This seminar will explore (and perhaps try to answer) some of these central transparency related questions.

Transparency and accountability are the two sides of the same coin. If transparency is given, accountability is sought and demanded. Citizens have increasingly become aware of their rights and have regularly sought accountability from the state. What are the tools of citizen led accountability? How does the state respond to this? To find answers to these pertinent questions it is necessary to understand the politics of transparency and accountability. This throws open interesting insights on the state-society relations. In this context this course will critically reflect and examine the patterns of transparency, accountability and corruption in South Asia.

Learning Outcomes

On completion of this course the students will:

1. Understand the theoretical and conceptual issues related to transparency, accountability and corruption in South Asia
2. Critically examine the linkages between politics, corruption, public policy and governance
3. Reflect on the ongoing discourse both within the state and society on transparency and accountability

4. Develop pedagogical tools and knowledge to undertake comparative research
5. And be able to link the theoretical concepts to the empirical material

Prerequisite

No prior knowledge is required. However, students taking this course need commitment to the area while being rooted in the discipline of social science. Some amount of sensitivity to the issues covered in this seminar will enrich the discussions.

Organization

I will initiate the core sessions of this seminar on: Corruption, Transparency and Accountability. These core sessions are mentioned in the course outline provided below. Apart from these core sessions students are expected to make a 15-minutes presentation based on the readings followed by class discussion. Students can choose their presentation slots according to their interests. These slots will be assigned on the principle of first come first serve, so, please inform me of your preferred presentation slot at the earliest.

Presentations can take shape of a debate as well as a reflection on the readings. Presenters will provide some leading questions to initiate the discussions. Please send in your lead questions at least two days prior to your presentation day. Presentations and class discussions can be a good starting point to initiate thinking about the paper which I will expect by the end of this semester.

The essential readings will be uploaded on Moodle. It is necessary for the students to engage with the essential readings to meaningfully participate in this class. I will happily recommend additional readings (beyond the supplementary readings).

The **Moodle password** for this course is: **Transparency18**

Note*: Students who desire a “Schein” must register on Moodle by the second week after the lecture begins.

Assessment

I will evaluate students on the basis of: 1. Final Term Paper; 2. Book review and 3. Presentation and Participation

Final Term paper (50%): Students are expected to write a term paper on a topic of their choice by the end of this seminar. Term papers are to be 5000 -6000 words in length (3000-4000 words for BA students) including footnotes and references. **Term papers are due by 30 September 2018.**

Book Review (30%): Students will review a book from the reading list which will be provided by me. Students are also free to choose a book of their own choice. Please note that the books chosen should be relevant to the subject covered in this course. Students will take my prior approval before choosing the book for reviewing. Book reviews are to be 1000-1200 words in length.

Class Presentation, Participation and Attendance (20%): Evaluation will be based on student's engagement with the topic and demonstrated understanding of the assigned readings. Since, this is a seminar style class, discussions and engagement with the topic assigned will be appreciated. Based on the readings (and perhaps beyond) it is also encouraged to think deeply about the issues assigned each week.

Students are expected to attend the seminar regularly and are encouraged to actively participate in the discussions. They will be evaluated on the basis of their preparation for this seminar. *It is pertinent for the students to come prepared in the class which necessitates engagement with the essential readings provided in the course outline.*

Week 1 (17 April 2018)

Introduction

This is an introductory session where background and context will be provided to the course. We will discuss the contemporary trends on corruption, transparency and accountability in the south Asian context. This session is important for students, as it will introduce the context, meaning of the key terms, broader arguments made in the readings. Prior to starting the discussions on specific topics, this session will familiarize the students with the state of the art. Students should also express their expectations from this module and can discuss the content and orientation of the topics covered, clarify the teaching and learning arrangements.

To familiarize themselves with the area studies and topic of this course students are advised to look at the following core reading:

Heywood, P. M. (Ed.). (2014). *Routledge handbook of political corruption*. Routledge.

Week 2 (24 April 2018)

How, What and Why of Corruption: Reflections on Concepts and definitions

Readings

Bardhan, P. (2015). Corruption and development policy (drawing upon the recent Indian debate). *Journal of Public Economic Theory*, 17(4), 472-479.

Harrison, E. (2007). Corruption. *Development in practice*, 17(4-5), 672-678.

Week 3 (8 May 2018)

Corruption in South Asia

Readings

Ahmad , Naved & Brookins, O. T. (2004). On corruption and countervailing actions in three South Asian nations. *The Journal of Policy Reform*, 7(1), 21-30.

Naresh Khatri, Shaista E. Khilji and Bahaudin Mujtaba (2013). Anatomy of corruption in South Asia, In *Globalization, Change and Learning in South Asia* by Shaista Khilji and Chris Rowley. UK: Chandos Asian Studies Series: 63-81

Week 4 (15 May 2018)

Country Reflections I (India)

Wade, Robert (1985), “The Market for Public Office: Why the Indian State is Not Better at Development,” *World Development* 13.4: 467-497.

Gupta, A. (2017). Changing Forms of Corruption in India. *Modern Asian Studies*, 51(6), 1862-1890.

Supplementary

Krishna K. Tummala (2006) Regime Corruption in India, *Asian Journal of Political Science* 14(1): 1-22

Khanna, J. & Johnston, M. (2007). India’s middlemen: Connecting by corrupting? *Crime, Law and Social Change* 48: 151–168.

Week 5 (22 May 2018)

Country Reflections II (Pakistan)

Niaz, I. (2014). Corruption and the Bureaucratic Elite in Pakistan: The 1960s and 1970s Revisited. *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society*, 24(1): 97-113.

Ali, Z. (2016). Conflict between social structure and legal framework: political corruption in Pakistan. *Commonwealth & Comparative Politics*, 54(1): 115-137.

Week 6 29 May 2018

Country Reflections III (Bangladesh and Srilanka)

Lindberg, J., & Orjuela, C. (2011). Corruption and conflict: connections and consequences in war-torn Sri Lanka. *Conflict, Security & Development*, 11(02): 205-233.

Paksha Paul, B. (2010). Does corruption foster growth in Bangladesh? *International Journal of Development Issues*, 9(3), 246-262.

Week 7 (5 June 2018)

Everyday Corruption

Perera-Mubarak, K. N. (2012). Reading 'stories' of corruption: Practices and perceptions of everyday corruption in post-tsunami Sri Lanka. *Political Geography*, 31(6), 368-378.

Witsoe, J. (2012). Everyday corruption and the political mediation of the Indian state: An ethnographic exploration of brokers in Bihar. *Economic and Political Weekly* 47 (6): 47-54.

Supplementary

Subedi, M. S. (2005). Corruption in Nepal: An anthropological inquiry. *Dhaulagiri Journal of Sociology and Anthropology*, 1, 110-128.

Week 8 (12 June 2018)

Clientelism

Pilavsky, A (Ed.). 2017. Patronage as Politics in South Asia. New Delhi: Cambridge University Press. Read- Introduction

Joshi, M., & Mason, T. D. (2011). Peasants, patrons, and parties: The tension between clientelism and democracy in Nepal. *International Studies Quarterly*, 55(1): 151-175.

Sarker, A. E. (2008). Patron-client politics and its implications for good governance in Bangladesh. *Intl Journal of Public Administration*, 31(12), 1416-1440.

Week 9 (19 June 2018)

Transparency and Accountability

Cucciniello, M., Porumbescu, G. A., & Grimmelikhuijsen, S. (2017). 25 years of transparency research: Evidence and future directions. *Public Administration Review*, 77(1), 32-44.

Newell, P., & Wheeler, J. (2006). Making accountability count. *IDS Policy Briefing*, No. 33, 06.

Supplementary

Joshi, A., & Houtzager, P. P. (2012). Widgets or watchdogs? Conceptual explorations in social accountability. *Public Management Review*, 14(2), 145-162.

Week 10 (26 June 2018)

Institutional Response

Peisakhin, L., & Pinto, P. (2010). Is transparency an effective anticorruption strategy? Evidence from a field experiment in India. *Regulation & Governance*, 4(3), 261-280.

Citizens Access to Information in South Asia: Regional Synthesis Report (2014). The Asia Foundation. Available <https://asiafoundation.org/resources/pdfs/CitizensAccessToInformationinSouthAsia.pdf>

Feisal Khan, (2016) "Combating corruption in Pakistan", *Asian Education and Development Studies* Vol. 5 (2):195-210

Week 11 (3 July 2018)

Tools of Citizen led Accountability

Goetz, A. M., & Jenkins, R. (2001). Hybrid forms of accountability: citizen engagement in institutions of public-sector oversight in India. *Public Management Review*, 3(3), 363-383.

Knox, C. (2009). Dealing with sectoral corruption in Bangladesh: developing citizen involvement. *Public Administration and Development*, 29(2), 117-132.

Sirker, K., & Cosic, S. (2007). Empowering the Marginalized: Case Studies of Social Accountability Initiatives in Asia. Available <http://siteresources.worldbank.org/EXTSOCACCEMISIDEGOV/Resources/EmpoweringTheMarginalizedFinalVersion.pdf>

Week 12 (10 July 2018)

Transcending clientelism

Mukherji, R., & Jha, H. (2017). Bureaucratic Rationality, Political Will, and State Capacity. *Economic and Political Weekly*, 53-60.

Bussell, J. (2012). *Corruption and reform in India: Public services in the digital age*. Cambridge University Press. (Read Introduction and Chapter 7)

Supplementary

Aslam, G., & Yilmaz, S. (2011). Impact of decentralization reforms in Pakistan on service delivery—an empirical study. *Public Administration and Development*, 31(3), 159-171.

Week 13 (17 July 2018)

Civil Services Reform: Revamping Steel Frame?

Huque, A. S. (2005). Explaining the myth of public sector reform in South Asia: de-linking cause and effect. *Policy and Society*, 24(3), 97-121.

Wilder, A. (2009). The politics of civil service reform in Pakistan. *Journal of International Affairs*, 63(1), 19-37.

Week 14 (24 July 2018) Wrapping Up