

Controlling or Facilitating Corruption? The Role of New Technologies

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Abstract

The scope of new technologies' impact on our everyday life is extending constantly. Everybody leaves a digital footprint behind by the huge amount of data we share (in)voluntarily. Robots and algorithms have started to replace human public servants in administrative processes and make decisions. While terms such as ICTs and Big Data have become part of the vernacular through their conspicuous impact on society, they do not exhaust the range of new technologies employed in the production and administration of collective assets (both tangible and intangible) as these continue to increase at an accelerating rate. The current availability of specialized tools has created opportunities to prevent (e.g. by fostering compliance), augment integrity and detect unlawful behaviors by effectively increasing accountability and decreasing the level of discretion previously enjoyed by officials in the public and private sectors. However, they have also meant the proliferation of new windows of opportunity to spread misinformation, hide stolen assets, and weaken the rule of law in general.

In this Panel we aim to explore the interface between technology—such as online and multimedia platforms, blockchain, machine learning, computer simulation, digital sensors, etc.—and (anti-)corruption. We invite presentations from scholars and practitioners that address these tools in the context of integrity, (anti-)corruption and compliance research. Papers can address the potential of new technologies to prevent corruption, promote integrity and increase compliance. Furthermore, studies can evaluate how new technologies can be a mean to detect corruption and to create valid data on corruption. Finally, we invite research that highlights potential pitfalls of the use of these new technologies. By looking into such or similar ways these tools are used by reformers and/or wrongdoers, presentations will offer a look into the study of corruption through the lens of hardware and software.

Keywords: Corruption, Integrity, Compliance, Artificial intelligence, Machine learning

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February;

- your name, academic affiliation and email address
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