Confronting Corruption in Defense of Human Rights

Fall 2017 Study Group

Convener: Sherman Teichman
Co-Convener: Prof. Nikos Passas
Research Assistant: Jérôme Krumenacker

Dates

27 September	12 – 1 pm
11 October	12 – 1 pm
25 October	12 – 1 pm
29 November	12 – 1 pm

"Corruption is an enormous obstacle to the realization of all human rights — civil, political, economic, social and cultural, as well as the right to development. Corruption violates the core human rights principles of transparency, accountability, non-discrimination and meaningful participation in every aspect of life of the community. Conversely, these principles, when upheld and implemented, are the most effective means to fight corruption"

Navi Pillay, High Commissioner for Human Rights 2008-2014

Samuel Bak, "See No Evil," 2015.

Objective

Through four initial sessions, this study group will establish the transnational nature of corruption networks, examining in particular the alliance between kleptocratic regimes, international criminal organizations, global finance, and private industry. These networks – enabled by a worldwide clandestine pipeline for pilfered resources, embezzled funds, and bribery money – violate human rights by siphoning the wealth of nations, destroying environments, and depriving the commonwealth of goods and services that by rights belongs to ordinary citizens. The study group will also explore the failures of past anti-corruption efforts to target these networks, and potential strategies to combat transnational corruption at all levels.

Beyond these four sessions, we will extend research and internship opportunities for students with our speakers and other collaborators. If you have a specific area or interest you wish to pursue, whether it's Afghanistan or Zimbabwe, the Brazilian "Car Wash" scandal or extractive industries and the resource curse, we will work to assist you.

Such opportunities will include research with Giannina Segnini, Director of the M.S. in Data Journalism Program of the Journalism School at Columbia University, on the imbroglio of Trump real estate transactions; interaction with intelligence analysts, experts from the Human Rights Foundation, and investigative journalists from the Organized Crime and Corruption Project and the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists

Sherman Teichman

Sherman Teichman is currently a Senior Fellow at the Carr Center for Human Rights Policy at Harvard University's Kennedy School. Working with the Carr Center, the Global Anticorruption Lab at the Harvard Law School, the Northeastern School of Criminology and Criminal Justice and the Human Rights Foundation, Oxfam, and the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, he will enact educational programming and policy initiatives. As a strategic adviser for the Human Rights Foundation, he will facilitate research opportunities to students on corruption and other human rights themes, especially through the Oslo Scholars Program, an initiative he created for the Human Rights Foundation. Furthermore, as a Senior Fellow at the Wallenberg Centre for Human Rights in Montreal Teichman will continue his work on behalf of prisoners of conscience and on combating all forms of persecution, discrimination and anti-Semitism.

Teichman is a non-resident Research Associate in the Department of Politics and International Relations at the University of Oxford, in association with their Centre for Technology and Global Affairs. He will address the Centre's interests on artificial intelligence, cyber, robotics, and nuclear, resonating the *Pugwash Conferences* ethos, probing the intersection of science, technology, ethics, and international security.

He is also Senior Fellow for the Lichtenstein Institute of Strategic Development, where he buttresses the LISD Academic Academy outreach on global urban, sustainability and environmental concerns.

Among Teichman's other positions, he is a Strategic Advisor for RefugePoint, working on rescue and resettlement issues; a Steering Committee member of the Israeli-Palestinian organization, Combatants for Peace; an Advisory Board member of the Council for European Studies; a Board member of VII Photo Agency Foundation; and advisor to Hackernest, organizing special cause hackathons tackling global issues; and the Mind/Brain Center on War and Humanity at Stony Brook.

Teichman has had a distinguished educational career for five decades, working on diverse security issues including international terrorism, the Israel – Palestine dispute, 21st century conflict, civil-military relations, and global health and security. For the last thirty years, Teichman was the Founding Director (Emeritus since 2016) of the Institute for Global Leadership at Tufts University, acknowledged by the Carnegie Corporation of New York, as the "proven breeding ground for the next generation of international relations and international security leadership." In 1999, the yearlong theme for the Institute was Global Crime, Corruption, and Accountability.

Nikos Passas

Professor Passas is professor of criminology and criminal justice at Northeastern University, and co-director of the Institute for Security and Public Policy. He is also visiting professor at the Basel Institute on Governance, the Vienna University of Applied Sciences for Management & Communication, the Beijing Normal University, and the Financial Integrity Institute at Case Western Reserve Law School. He serves as the head of UN Sanctions Implementation Legal Review Services at Compliance Capacity and Skills International (CCSI) and chair of the Academic Council of the Anti-Corruption Academy in India.

Professor Passas specializes in the study of corruption, illicit financial/trade flows, sanctions, informal fund transfers, remittances, terrorism, white-collar crime, financial regulation, organized crime and international crimes. He has authored, co-authored, and edited more than two hundred works on these topics, including the *Nations Non-Proliferation Sanctions on Iran and North Korea* (2016), the *Informal Value Transfer Systems (IVTS) and Criminal Activities* (2004), the *Legislative Guide for the Implementation of the UN Convention against Corruption*, the *Legislative Guide for the Implementation of the UN Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime* (2003), *IVTS and Criminal Organizations* (1999) and *Transnational Financial Crimes* (2013), the *United Nations Convention against Corruption as a Way of Life* (2007), *International Crimes* (2003), and *It's Legal but It Ain't Right: Harmful Social Consequences of Legal Industries* (2004). He serves as editor-in-chief of the international journal *Crime, Law and Social Change* and associate editor in a number of journals.

Professor Passas also offers training to law enforcement, intelligence and private sector officials on regulatory and financial crime subjects. He regularly serves as expert witness in court cases or public hearings and consults with law firms, financial institutions, private security and consulting companies and various organizations, including the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN), OECD, OSCE, the IMF, the World Bank, other multilateral and bilateral institutions.

He served as team leader for a European Union Commission project on the control of proliferation/WMD finance. His current projects focus on anti-corruption authorities, the development of performance indicators for the assessment of anti-corruption, integrity and accountability in several countries, corruption and procurement regulation, trade-facilitated financial crime, the regulation of remittance flows in cash-based societies, and on use of IT for the enhancement of due diligence conducted by financial institutions.

Session I – House of Trump, House of Putin

How Vladimir Putin, Semion Mogilevich and the Russian Mafia Put Donald Trump in the White House

Wednesday 27 September
12 – 1 pm

Craig Unger
Contributing Editor, *Vanity Fair*
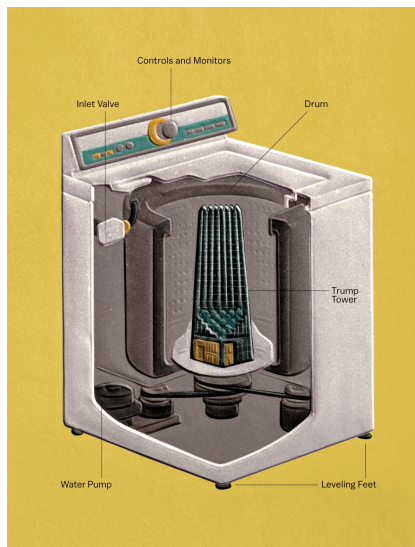Author, *House of Bush, House of Saud*

Discussion

What are the alleged origins of the connection between Donald Trump's businesses and the Russian criminal world?

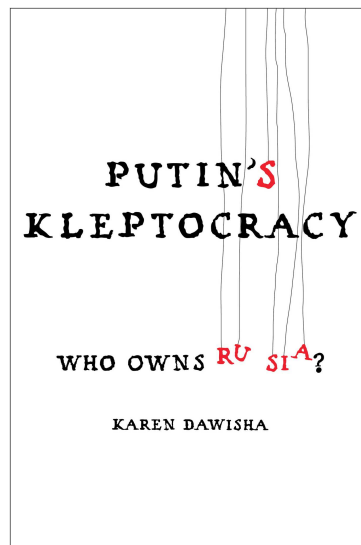How has the Putin regime institutionalized and "weaponized" Russian criminal networks, and to what ends?

How would the relationship between Trump's businesses and Russian corruption and crime exemplify the transnational nature of Putin's kleptocratic regime?
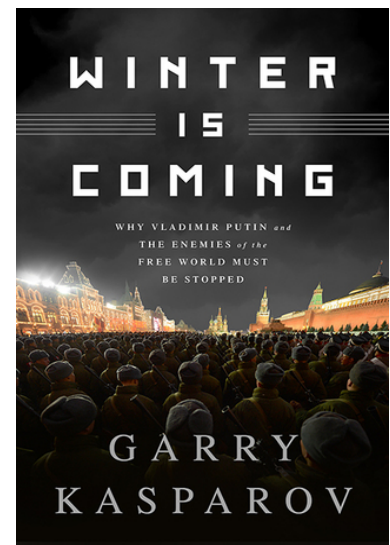
Readings

Craig Unger
"Trump's Russia Laundromat," *New Republic*
2017

Karen Dawisha
Putin's Kleptocracy: Who Owns Russia?
2014

Garry Kasparov
Winter is Coming
2016

Session II – Transnational Corruption Networks, Multinational Corporations, and Global Finance

Wednesday 11 October
12 – 1 pm

Keith Darcy
Senior Adviser to Deloitte & Touche LLP's governance, regulatory and risk strategies' enterprise compliance practice

Discussion

In an increasingly transparent world, how are corporations and enforcement authorities responding to issues of corruption and malfeasance?

What are the emerging new risks to the public and private sectors, and what can be done about these risks?
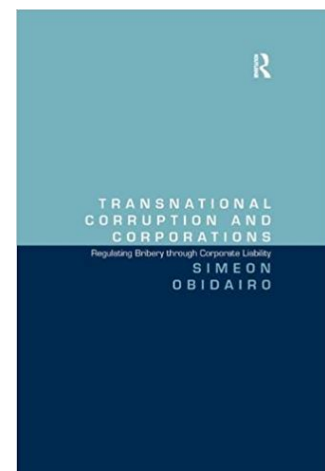
What role does culture play in addressing bribery and corruption in multinational business?

Readings

ICIJ "The Panama Papers: Politicians, Criminals and the Rogue Industry That Hides Their Cash"	Andrew Spalding "Corruption, Corporations, and the New Human Right," *Washington University Law Review* 2014	Simeon Obidairo *Transnational Corruption and Corporations* 2013

Session III – When Corruption Is the Operating System
Transnational Kleptocratic Networks

Wednesday 25 October
12 – 1 pm

Sarah Chayes
Senior Fellow, Democracy and Rule of Law Program, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace
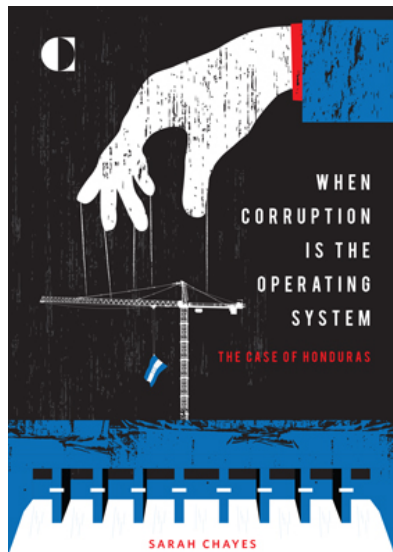

Discussion

How do networks bent on self-enrichment create a corrupt "operating system" across borders? How do these networks endanger human rights?

How is a corrupt operating system supported and enabled by foreign and multinational institutions, both governmental and private?
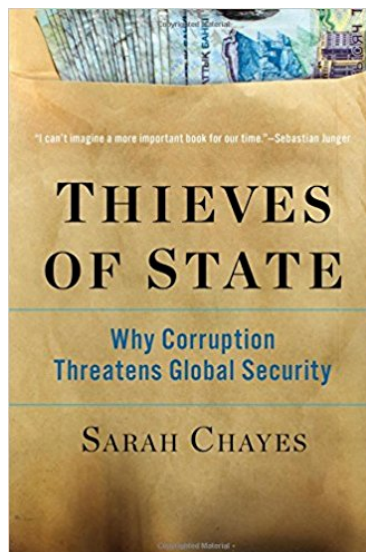
Where and how is such an operating system best targeted?

Readings

Sarah Chayes
"When Corruption is the Operating System: The Case of Honduras"
2017

Sarah Chayes
Thieves of State
2015

Sarah Chayes
"A hidden cost of corruption: environmental degradation,"
Washington Post
2017

Session IV – How to Improve Anti-Corruption Impacts on Society
A Critique of Past Failures

Wednesday 29 November
12 – 1 pm

Nikos Passas

Professor of Criminology and Criminal
Justice at Northeastern University
Co-Director, Institute for Security and
Public Policy

Discussion

What accounts for the lack of impact of past and present global anti-corruption efforts?

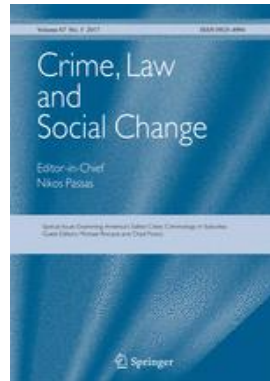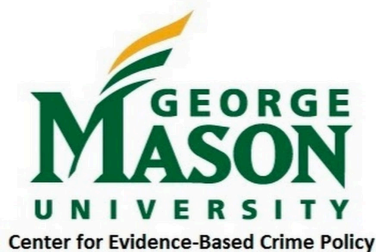How can anti-corruption efforts become more effective at making tangible progress in target societies?

What can be learned from organized collective action directed at other ingrained global problems that have brought together corporations, grassroots networks, and governments?

Readings

Nikos Passas "Collective Action for Trade Transparency against Financial Crime" 2016	Nikos Passas "Anti-Corruption and Collective Actions with Impact" 2017	Nikos Passas "Lawful but Awful: 'Legal Corporate Crimes' " 2005

Suggested

Nikos Passas "Anti-Corruption and the Role of Hands-On Academics" 2017	Nikos Passas "Fighting Corruption," TEDxAcademy 2015	Alina Mungiu-Pippidi *The Quest for Good Governance: How Societies Develop Control of Corruption* 2015	Joint US-Russia Working Group on Afghan Narcotrafficking East-West Institute 2017

Suggested Readings and Additional Resources

Robert Rotberg, *The Corruption Cure*, 2016.

Ray Fisman and Miriam Golden, *Corruption: What Everyone Needs to Know*, 2016.

OHCHR, "The Human Rights Case Against Corruption," 2013.

Harvard Law School, Global Anticorruption Blog

Hudson Institute, Kleptocracy Initiative

UNODC, Anti-Corruption Academic Initiative

Anti-Corruption Resource Center

CHR. Michelsen Institute, Anti-Corruption Program

Basel Institute on Governance, Asset Recovery/ICAR