



# Centre for the Study of Corruption 2020-21 Annual Report

The **Centre for the Study of Corruption (CSC)**, founded in 2011, is the UK's foremost academic centre for studying corruption. Located within one of the world's leading universities, CSC is regarded as a highly credible source of independent and objective research and ideas. It is widely recognised for combining world-class academic approaches and research with the practical experience of how corruption can be addressed in the real world. We operate in three broad areas:

- **Research:** undertaking rigorous academic research to address the world's major corruption issues
- **Courses & Teaching:** training the next generation of anti-corruption professionals around the world from undergraduates to PhDs, with three Masters courses
- **Policy:** ensuring that our research informs evidence-based policy and helps change the world.

The **Centre for the Study of Corruption** publishes Working Papers to make research results, accounts of work-in-progress and background information available to those concerned with the study of corruption and anti-corruption. The Centre does not express opinions of its own; the views expressed in this publication are the responsibility of the author(s).

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CSC Working Papers are available from our website at:

<http://www.sussex.ac.uk/scsc/discussion-papers>

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## **1. Overview**

The Centre has had a very research-intensive year, as well as continuing to build our profile through hosting events (via Zoom, owing to Covid restrictions) and engaging regularly with policymakers and practitioners. Key achievements include:

- The research and writing of a >100-page report on Corruption in the UK, commissioned by the Home Office.
- The research and writing of a book of case studies of corruption, to be published by Agenda in February 2022.
- Policy impact with the G20, IMF and UK Government via research, consultations, and direct interactions.

We consider the following LPS faculty to be 'Core' members of CSC, defined by having research and/or teaching with a focus on corruption: Liz David-Barrett (LDB, Director), Dan Hough (DB), Robert Barrington (RB), Francis McGowan (FM), Roxana Bratu (RBratu), Sam Power (SP), Liljana Cvetanoska (LC) and Shahrzad Fouladvand (SF). The core team meets monthly. Beyond this, the CSC has links with faculty members in other departments of the University, including Geography and BMEC, and is seeking to develop stronger links with IDS.

## 2. Teaching

In collaboration with Pearson, CSC faculty have been heavily involved in teaching the new ODL MA Corruption and Governance, which launched in January 2020, of which RBratu is the Convenor. The programme is designed to appeal to anti-corruption professionals who are unable to take a year out, particularly overseas students who may be unable to afford to travel abroad. The course has attracted 98 students from more than 30 countries and, given the covid-19 crisis, has put Sussex in an excellent position to offer an alternative to campus-based teaching. CSC staff have also engaged extensively with Pearson to promote the course to relevant markets, e.g., by advising on marketing materials such as an animated video and various blog posts.

The CSC's flagship campus-based Master's in Corruption and Governance attracted 16 full-time and two part-time students. More than half of the cohort were international students (from a range of countries including Cote d'Ivoire, Burundi, Malawi, South Africa, Trinidad & Tobago, Costa Rica, Spain, Germany and Myanmar) with prior professional experience in anti-corruption in government, civil society and the private sector. CSC faculty also taught on the LLM in Qatar in cooperation with the Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption Centre (ROLACC); this was the last intake year, with 2021-22 seeing the final year of teaching to second-year students.

CSC faculty also teach undergraduate modules on corruption: DH and RB taught a Political Corruption module in Politics, and LC taught a module in Law.

The Centre has developed a one-day course targeted at senior AC professionals in private- or public-sector organisations, but did not actively promote it during the past year owing to Covid restrictions.

We feel there is scope to attract more students, especially to the ODL course, and building the external profile and reputation of the Centre can help facilitate this.

## 3. Research

In the academic year 2020-21, CSC faculty published research in a number of peer-reviewed journals, including Studies in Comparative International Development, BMJ Global Health, Political Quarterly, Parliamentary Affairs and the Prisons Service Journal; in addition, they have contributed chapters to a number of books.

In February 2021, the CSC was commissioned by the Home Office (for £100,000) to undertake research into corruption in the UK. We put together a team of researchers (including PhD students and former Masters students) to conduct this research, supervised by core faculty members RB, DH and LDB, with PhD student Rebecca Dobson Phillips playing

a key role in project management as well as taking part in the research. The research involved workshops with internal and external experts and interviews with approximately 50 experts. The final report comprises a Conceptual Framework, six 'deep dives' into key sectors, two lighter-touch reviews of corruption risks in Scotland and Northern Ireland, analysis of cross-cutting issues, and a research agenda. The report has been well received by the Home Office and we are in discussions with the Joint Anti-Corruption Unit about them adopting our definition of corruption, as elaborated in the Conceptual Framework, as a cross-government working definition to frame the UK Government's policy work in this area.

Throughout the year, RB developed a book of corruption case studies, taking the project from initial conceptualisation through commissioning and editing the cases to submission to the publisher. The final book is on track to be published by Agenda in February 2022. The authors are CSC faculty, former and current PhD and Masters students. The book establishes a common framework for analysis of corruption case studies and applies it to 18 exemplary cases, organised into four key types, with commentaries providing comparative analysis of each type.

LDB was Co-Investigator on two other grant-funded projects, one on International Anti-Bribery Laws and Local Social Norms (with colleagues at Nottingham University and Cass Business School) and one on Medicines Supply Chains in Ghana and Tanzania (with colleagues at Durham, Oxford, Leicester, Edinburgh, Cape Coast-Ghana and NIMRI-Tanzania). Both experienced Covid-related delays to data collection. However, data collection is now complete for the former project and LDB will be presenting preliminary results at the American Political Science Association annual meeting in October 2021. The Medicines project is also continuing, and we are seeking a 12-month no-cost extension to make up for Covid delays.

LDB was awarded a new grant (approx. £75,000) in August 2021 from the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office Serious Organised Crime and Anti-Corruption Evidence programme. This is for a project to investigate transnational governance networks against grand corruption, among law enforcement, among investigative journalists, and across the two groups. It runs until end-March 2022 and involves research in the UK, the Caribbean and the Western Balkans. The Co-Investigator is Slobodan Tomić at the University of York.

We are developing a policy-orientated Working Paper series. Four papers were published this year, adding to the three from the previous year. [The Role of the G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group in Influencing the Global Agenda](#) (David-Barrett & Prelec); [Why Are There So Few Domestic Corruption Cases in the UK?](#) (Hicks); [Transparency in Emergency](#)

Procurement: Ten Recommendations for Policy Makers (Hanna); What Makes a Good Debarment Regime? (Hawley).

Seven more Working Papers are in the pipeline: Corruption and UK Prisons (Barrington, Hutton and Silverman); the UK Anti-Corruption Ecosystem (Dobson Phillips); Standards in Public Life (David-Barrett et al); The Governance of Corruption (tbc); Anti-Corruption Agencies (tbc); Resourcing Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement (Barrington); Ethics and the legal profession (Tirini).

The CSC attracts excellent PhD students. The current cohort includes Rebecca Dobson (ESRC-funded), Tom Shipley (ESRC), Riccardo d'Emidio, Yang Wu (China), Irasema Guzman (Mexico) and Eulmi Park (South Korea). We have two joining this year: John Lawes and Peter Vincent. The PhD group is an important component of the Centre's research capacity, both adding to our breadth and reputation, and providing an accessible pool of high-quality researchers for future projects.

#### **4. Engagement and impact**

We engage regularly with policy makers, particularly at the Joint Anti-Corruption Unit, the Home Office, and the G20. In autumn 2021, LDB was asked to convene an Academic Roundtable to support the work of the G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group. This brought together academics from all 20 countries to inject research and evidence into the policy discussions. LDB will also speak at the next G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group meeting in late September 2021. We have generated a debate in UK policy circles on the need for an anti-corruption agency in the UK. LC assessed the implementation of the 2018-2020 Open Government Partnership Action Plan for North Macedonia, and was an academic reviewer of the in-briefing "Corruption and Human Rights" prepared for the European Parliament's Subcommittee on Human Rights. SP was an expert consultant to the CSPL review of electoral regulation, helping them draft the report and writing two research appendices, and giving oral evidence. He also submitted written evidence to the Cabinet Office consultation on digital imprints in electoral regulation; and gave oral evidence to the PACAC inquiry into the Elections Bill.

Our engagement with business is less developed, and has been held back by Covid. We hope to expand this more in future through a) re-vamping our visiting and practitioner Fellows, b) the Internship module, c) promoting the CPD course, d) better use of the CSC alumni network. RB is speaking at the European Investors Conference in Copenhagen on October 1st.

LDB's impact extension project on Curbing Corruption in Public Procurement, with Co-Investigator Mihály Fazekas and funded by the Global Integrity-Department for

International Development (DFID) Anti-Corruption Evidence programme, continued throughout the year. This involves developing an online interface for analysing procurement data and working with partners in Uganda and Jamaica to ensure that it meets user needs, undertake training and support take-up. Progress was delayed somewhat by Covid-related issues, but both portals have been built and tested, and we are now working on producing training materials.

We hosted a number of online panel discussions, including one on Anti-Corruption Agencies, one on the UK anti-corruption enforcement landscape, and one on standards in public life. CSC faculty also spoke on panels at the OECD Global Anti-Corruption and Integrity Forum, at a seminar series on the Bribery Act organised by the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, at an IACA Summer School for African students, and at the Transparency International Summer School.

The CSC hosted a number of external speakers over the course of the year, including Peter Geoghegan from Open Democracy; Caroline Fox from the Institute of Chartered Accountants; and Onyi Ough from Step Up Nigeria.

Our policy impact has been particularly impressive this year. For example:

- CSC faculty members have been invited to make written and oral submissions to national and international policy forums, including the G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group, the Committee on Standards in Public Life (four CSC faculty were separately invited to give oral evidence), and the UK Parliament (LDB served as Specialist Adviser to the Standards Committee).
- LDB's prize-winning work on procurement red flags with Mihály Fazekas has been widely adopted by development agencies (see <https://www.procurementintegrity.org/>) and national governments (in Jamaica and Uganda) and contributed to the global move towards open contracting.
- We have developed a new definition of corruption which we expect to be adopted as the official definition of the UK Government.

These examples, and others, have been achieved through a combination of policy-focused research, networking and profile-raising.

## 5. External profile

We have transferred our Blog to the main Sussex website, which makes it look more professional and avoids it being used for advertising. Our Twitter account now has >2000 followers (up from 750 in September 2020), and we are in the process of improving the website.

We publish short pieces on the CSC blog on average once a fortnight (40 posts since 1st Sept 2020), a mix of contributions from faculty, PhD students, and prominent external experts. We have also run some blog series on particular issues, including a series on the G20 and Anti-Corruption, and a series on the African Union's role in combatting corruption (a spinoff of a conference on this topic organised by Femi Amao).

CSC faculty have also published several pieces on corruption on external blogs (Washington Post, Global Anticorruption blog, Global Integrity, U4) and been interviewed on podcasts including Kickback and the Covid-19 and Democracy podcast. LDB was invited to appear on Newsnight twice, and LDB and RB have been quoted frequently in the Financial Times, The Guardian, Le Monde and other newspapers. SP has appeared many times on Talk Radio, BBC Five Live, BBC Sussex to discuss issues around standards in public life in the UK.

LDB was part of a team which won the IMF Anti-Corruption Challenge in autumn 2020, for a project which measures the costs of corruption in procurement and allows users to estimate the impact of different scenarios in an interactive portal.

We are gradually expanding our social media presence with a new Youtube channel, and this will continue to be a focus.

We have developed a new CSC branding, in line with the university's guidelines to give our external communications a more consistent and professional look, and take opportunities as they arise to reinforce our external presence. For example, we will be turning some of our Home Office project graphics into posters and handouts.

## 6. Resources

CSC has built up a small fund from HEIF funds, trusts (Joffe and Amberstone), research projects (Home Office), and consultancy fees (European Investment Conference) as well as internal funding. This has enabled us to hire a part-time administrative assistant as well as some support for social media and website development, and external relations with the G20.

## 7. Plans for 2021-22

Over and above the plans for research, teaching and policy impact outlined above, we plan to do more work in three areas:

1. Alumni network: we would like to provide more support for our alumni so that they develop into a more densely networked and mutually supportive global community of anti-corruption experts.
2. Case studies: arising from our faculty book, we see an opportunity to develop this area of our work, notably on our re-vamped website. This will raise the Centre's profile and could also lead to income generation.



3. Fundraising: we aim to take opportunities where we feel they are appropriate. We are working on a £1m ESRC bid with Transparency International. We are also working with the Development Office to support a fundraising strategy, with a number of proposed areas for funding outlined in the draft proposal which is attached as Annex I. Our strategy remains to keep the Centre relatively small but generate revenue to support key activities such as research, the development of the alumni network and visiting fellowships.

*Liz Dávid-Barrett, 30 September 2021*

# Annex: Fundraising Strategy

## Centre for the Study of Corruption (CSC) at Sussex University

[www.sussex.ac.uk/scsc](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/scsc)

### *Understanding and tackling one of the world's biggest challenges*

#### Introduction

CSC is the UK's foremost academic centre for studying corruption. The core faculty comprises Dr Elizabeth David-Barrett (Director), Professor Dan Hough, and Professor Robert Barrington, with particular research strengths in the UK, Europe and Africa.

As an academic centre at one of the world's leading universities, CSC has significant credibility as a source of independent and objective research and ideas, and is listened to by governments, companies and civil society. We are advisers to the G20, knowledge partners to the OECD and educate staff from business and anti-corruption agencies across the world.

#### Our vision

Our vision is to create a world-renowned centre of corruption-related research, teaching and policy which helps to address the global challenge of corruption.

In academia, there is no such global centre of excellence, although a number of individual academics have well-established reputations for their work, and corruption is one of a number of subject areas encompassed within departments and research centres whose primary focus is elsewhere.

We already have in place a core faculty of world-renowned experts and up-and-coming academics. With additional resources, we can move up several gears and create a world-renowned centre of excellence to address one of the most critical issues facing today's world.

#### Goals & Objectives

In order to deliver this vision, we have established a number of objectives in relation to our three key areas of activity: research, teaching and policy.

**Research** - into the causes, consequences and impacts of corruption and what works in tackling corruption.

#### *What we currently do*

- High-quality research, mainly completed in the gaps between teaching, at the discretion of individual academics and often prioritised by research grant deliverables

#### *What we would like to do*

- Create a stable team of expert researchers not linked to project deliverables who are free to research questions and issues that we have identified as the most pressing needs across the world
- Greater dissemination of our research through publications, conferences, media and social media, utilising better design and smart circulation techniques

### ***Resources required***

- Professorial Chair: to lead the work outlined here
- Professorial research: teaching buy-outs so we can allocate our most experienced researchers to key areas of research work
- Post-docs: providing research capacity for our priority areas, while creating a career-path for younger researchers
- Research fund: funds for non-staff costs, for example surveys
- Creation of Visiting Fellowship Programme: brings both senior and early-career scholars to campus for academic exchange.

## **Educating the next generation**

### ***What we currently do***

- MA in Corruption & Governance: educating 15-20 students each year – but turning away a further 30-40, principally from developing countries, who pass our entry criteria but cannot find the necessary financial support
- Online MA in Corruption & Governance: educating 60-75 students each year – with thousands of additional enquiries
- PhD students: 4-5 at any one time, corruption-related but no strategic focus

### ***What we would like to do***

- MA in Corruption & Governance: up to 30 students each year, expanding numbers through enhanced marketing and offering additional scholarships
- Online MA in Corruption & Governance: educating up to 200 students each year, with enhanced marketing and subsidising course fees for key target audiences (eg staff of anti-corruption agencies)
- PhD students: 3 additional students with a strategic research focus
- CPD: develop a short course that is delivered to business, government officials and civil society.

### ***Resources required***

- Funding for scholarships and bursaries.

## **Policy grounded in evidence-based research**

### ***What we currently do***

- Engagement when resources allow with international bodies such as G20 and OECD
- Periodic submissions to public consultations
- Ad-hoc advice to governments

### ***What we would like to do***

- Develop a long-term engagement strategy for policy impact, based on having adequate resource

- Comprehensive strategic profile-building and networking
- Smart communication of our research (eg through enhanced design)
- Increased engagement with business and other non-government actors.

#### ***Resources required***

- Professorial time allocation as outlined above
- Post-doc researchers as outlined above
- Fund for research dissemination and global network building
- Create a Global Corruption Review: annual 'state of play' publication on global corruption, the Centre's centrepiece for showcasing research and engaging a wider audience.

## Budget

| <b>Activity</b>                      | <b>Notes</b>                                                                                                                                    | <b>Cost<br/>(annual)</b> |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Endowed Chair                        | Chair named after donor eg 'Director of the xx Programme in Corruption & Governance' or 'xx Chair of xx'                                        | 220,527                  |
| Professorial Research                | Teaching cover (buy-out) allowing Director and Professors to allocate time to research 1xFTE                                                    | 129,059                  |
| Post-doctoral Researcher 1           |                                                                                                                                                 | 129,059                  |
| Post-doctoral Researcher 2           |                                                                                                                                                 | 129,059                  |
| Admin Officer                        |                                                                                                                                                 | 52,193                   |
| <i>Sub-total staff</i>               |                                                                                                                                                 | <i>659,897</i>           |
| Visiting Fellowship programme        | 3x15-days; 6x1-month; 3x3-months; incl bench fees, travel, subsistence                                                                          | 122,450                  |
| Research Fund (eg surveys)           |                                                                                                                                                 | 60,000                   |
| Global Corruption Review             |                                                                                                                                                 | 60,000                   |
| Research Dissemination & Promotion   | Eg smart design, conferences, publications                                                                                                      | 30,000                   |
| Global Network Building              | Eg presence at key strategic events, build alumni network                                                                                       | 30,000                   |
| <i>Sub-total Research Activities</i> |                                                                                                                                                 | <i>302,450</i>           |
| MACAG Scholarships Fund              | Used for full or partial funding of fees/subsistence for up to 20 students pa; for campus and online courses; possibility of named scholarships | 300,000                  |
| PhD studentships x 3                 | £33,884 ea incl o/s fees and stipend                                                                                                            | 101,652                  |
| <i>Sub-total teaching</i>            |                                                                                                                                                 | <i>401,652</i>           |
| Overheads, estate costs, etc         |                                                                                                                                                 | 140,000                  |
| <b>Total</b>                         |                                                                                                                                                 | <b>c.£1.5m</b>           |
|                                      |                                                                                                                                                 |                          |
| <b>Additional options</b>            |                                                                                                                                                 |                          |
| 5-year Named programme               | Eg 'Tickell Programme in Governance & Corruption'                                                                                               |                          |
| Centre naming rights                 | University to guarantee continuity for 25(?) years                                                                                              |                          |
|                                      |                                                                                                                                                 |                          |

## CSC's research activities are based around four themes:

- Corruption in politics
- Corruption in international business
- Corruption in sport
- Corruption in geographical context – with particular strengths in the UK, Germany & Eastern Europe, China and Africa.

Full details of the published and current research undertaken by our core faculty can be found in the detailed biographies of each faculty member at [www.sussex.ac.uk/scsc](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/scsc)

## Other papers in this series:

CSC publishes working papers to make research results, accounts of work-in-progress and background information available to those concerned with the study of corruption and anti-corruption. Recent titles include:

- Corruption in UK Prisons: a critical evaluation of the evidence base
- The Role of the G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group in Influencing the Global Agenda
- Why Are There So Few Domestic Corruption Cases in the UK?
- What makes a good debarment regime?