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# ANTI-CORRUPTION RESEARCH NEWS

## KNOWLEDGE FOR TRANSPARENCY - LINKING ANTI-CORRUPTION RESEARCH AND PRACTICE

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## IN THIS ISSUE

*The European Commission has recently granted funding for the largest ever social science research project on corruption. For more information, please see the "Research Projects" section on page 7.*

## ACRN: MOBILISING GLOBAL KNOWLEDGE AGAINST CORRUPTION

Welcome to the eighth issue of Anti-Corruption Research News. Here you will find recent insights and activities in anti-corruption research, synthesised for scholars, policy-makers and anti-corruption practitioners. This newsletter is part of the Anti-Corruption Research Network (ACRN), an initiative by Transparency International to build a knowledge community and information service for corruption research.

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## THE ROLE OF CORRUPTION IN PEACEBUILDING

### By Dominik Zaum and Christine Cheng

Corruption has become an increasingly salient issue in war to peace transitions, both for the populations of war-torn countries and for the international and regional organisations, donor governments, and NGOs who are supporting peacebuilding efforts. War-torn states are recognised as highly susceptible to corruption: their administrative and judicial institutions are weak, and they lack the capacity to monitor and enforce rules against corruption. Lingering social divisions from the war weaken shared conceptions of the public good and social norms that could otherwise constrain corrupt behaviour. There is extensive evidence, both quantitative and qualitative, of the prevalence of corruption in conflict-affected countries, which tend to cluster in the bottom of corruption indices such as Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index, and the World Bank's Governance Indicators.[1]

Corruption has also been identified by scholars and practitioners alike as a major obstacle to peacebuilding efforts. It is claimed that corruption undermines state legitimacy and effectiveness by distorting the distribution of public goods; complicates states' abilities to manage and resolve social conflicts; and

potentially (re)ignites conflict and causes violence by fuelling political, economic, and social grievances and by weakening security institutions.[2] Despite the broad range of social ills that have been attributed to corruption in peacebuilding contexts, the ways in which corruption actually affects peacebuilding efforts is less straightforward and less well understood than some of the literature seems to suggest.

**Understanding corruption in post-conflict environments**

Three related problems help explain why much of the peacebuilding literature treats corruption in such a simplistic fashion. The first problem is epistemic. Corruption data is difficult to gather and the practicalities of working in post-conflict environments make this an even greater challenge. The very nature of the subject is more likely to produce anecdotal rather than systematic data. Where there have been attempts to collect data systematically, these have focused on corruption perception surveys capturing the experiences of corruption of

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## SPOTLIGHT: THE ROLE OF CORRUPTION IN PEACEBUILDING



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the business community, corruption experts, or the broader population. While Important, this data does not measure corruption at the level of crafting and implementing the elite bargains that lie at the core of most peacebuilding efforts. Afghanistan offers a pertinent example: one of the most detailed surveys of Afghan corruption focuses almost exclusively on the abominable scale of corruption in the police, judiciary, and the administration, and its substantial social and economic costs.[3] However, this data does not capture how corruption at the elite level binds local and regional power brokers to the state, and has provided for a degree of stability and governance in particular in parts of Northern Afghanistan that markedly distinguish it from other parts of the country.[4]

The second problem is that the content of corruption changes across different social and cultural contexts, and practices considered corrupt in some contexts might be considered as proper and legitimate in others. In many peacebuilding contexts, corruption is part of what Douglass North and his co-authors have described as the social logic of a post-war order, and central to the maintenance of that order.[5] For elites, corruption is critical to access the resources that are needed to fulfill demands for patronage and services, often arising from kinship obligations. For non-elites, engaging in corruption may be necessary to fulfill the most basic needs, even while they are aware of the detrimental effects of participating in this type of political economy.

The third related problem is that corruption and its impact is often understood by donors and analysts through the lens of the relationship between state and citizens, focussing on its effects on a notional social contract and the legitimacy of the state. Little attention is given to the ways in which

corruption impacts the relationships of different societal groups both to the state and to each other, and how it can marginalise, but also tie these groups to the state and the emerging post-war order.

There is now a growing acknowledgement that corruption in peacebuilding contexts can help to stabilise the emerging post-conflict political order, at least in the short-to medium term. Most importantly, opportunities for corruption and rent-seeking can provide incentives for armed groups to enter into a peace agreement; and can be central to the maintenance of stabilising networks of patronage that are inherent in the elite bargain at the heart of most peace processes. Peacebuilders might therefore tacitly and pragmatically accept corruption and literally 'purchase' peace, even if they try to put into place institutions to contain it in the longer run.

There are undoubtedly substantial social costs associated with such an approach. Stability relies on co-opting local elites to implement wider peacebuilding objectives. However, while the interests of these elites might overlap with those of international peacebuilders, they are unlikely to be congruent. Divergent interests, and the better understanding of local conditions that these elites possess, are likely to inhibit substantive anti-corruption reforms. Co-opting war-time networks into the peace process can also weaken state institutions, entrench inequity, and impart a sense of impunity.

### Corruption and the role of the peacebuilders

Peacebuilders need to recognise the impact of their own practices on corruption, as their extensive involvement in the political economy of post-conflict states not only entrusts them with a critical role in a country's war-to-peace transition, but also contributes to structuring

*"{Existing corruption data] does not capture how corruption at the elite level binds local and regional power brokers to the state, and has provided for a degree of stability and governance in particular in parts of Northern Afghanistan that markedly distinguish it from other parts of the country."*

*"Stability relies on co-opting local elites to implement wider peacebuilding objectives…[However, incorporating] war-time networks into the peace process can weaken state institutions, entrench inequity, and impart a sense of impunity"*

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### SPOTLIGHT: THE ROLE OF CORRUPTION IN PEACEBUILDING

*"Just like peace, corruption is a political problem that cannot be addressed through technical fixes alone. In practice, this means that establishing anti-corruption institutions and reforming public administrations are unlikely to be effective without real political support from local political elites."*

opportunities for corruption. To understand the character of corruption in many conflict-affected countries, its impact on peacebuilding operations, and to develop strategies to contain it, it is important to understand how contemporary peacebuilding policies and practices can fuel it. Three aspects of contemporary peacebuilding practices in particular deserve closer inspection.

First, the rapid inflow of aid associated with most peacebuilding operations distorts local economies and provides ample opportunities for rent-seeking. While the capacity to absorb aid is limited in the immediate aftermath of conflict, annual assistance to countries such as Liberia or Afghanistan has amounted to multiples of local GDP, and regulatory frameworks governing these sudden inflows of money are often weak.[6]

Second, one of the primary concerns of international peacebuilders is the return of violent conflict, which could threaten the legitimacy of peacebuilding efforts and the credibility of the states and organisations involved.[7] This prioritisation of stability over transforming war-time structures has often made both international and local peacebuilders reluctant to challenge corruption amongst actors with a capacity for violence for fear that they might directly threaten the peacebuilding process if the structures and practices sustaining their power or wealth are threatened.

Third, the emphasis on early post-conflict elections, which has characterised most peacebuilding operations, can fuel and entrench corruption. Studies have demonstrated how clientelistic politics, the increased ability of rent-seekers to access public

officials, and the weak institutional checks and balances associated with democratisation processes all increase opportunities for corruption and reduce the risk of getting caught.[8] However, despite calls to delay elections and focus on 'institutionalisation before liberalisation'[9], postponing elections is often not feasible. Not only is there often strong local demand for elections, but elections are also important for the selection of a legitimate local leadership.

**Better analysis is needed for more effective anti-corruption policies in the peace-building process**

The relationship between peacebuilding and corruption is complex and cannot simply be framed as a trade-off between corruption and development, corruption and good governance, or corruption and stability. It is also not susceptible to simple and universalist policy prescriptions. Just like peace, corruption is a political problem that cannot be addressed through technical fixes alone. In practice, this means that establishing anti-corruption institutions and reforming public administrations are unlikely to be effective without real political support from local political elites. This will hold true no matter how generously funded or well-designed a donor's anti-corruption initiative may be. Corruption is difficult to tackle because in conflict-affected countries it is a rational response to the constraints that people face. Without understanding and addressing these underlying incentives for corrupt behaviour, anti-corruption reforms are likely to fail.

### References

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## HIGHLIGHTS IN ANTI-CORRUPTION RESEARCH

### MEASURING CORRUPTION

**The Voice of the People Survey**
Ghana Integrity Initiative, 2011

The "Voice of the People Survey" is a national household corruption perception survey conducted in all the ten regions of Ghana between April 4 and April 22, 2011. The overall goal of the survey was to measure citizens' perceptions of corruption in the country, reported experiences of petty bribery and corruption, perceptions of institutions and categories of individuals that are more affected by corruption, citizens' views on corruption in both the public and private sector and the effectiveness of government actions to tackle corruption.

http://www.tighana.org/giipages/publication/Voice%20of%20the%20people%20Survey.pdf

**2011 Aid Transparency Index**
Publish What You Fund, 2011

The pilot Aid Transparency Index collects for the first time primary data on aid transparency levels, with help from civil society organisations in 34 countries. The Index assesses the availability of specific information items at organisational, country, and activity level for 58 donor organisations, including bilateral and multilateral donors, International Financial Institutions and private foundations. It then ranks these donors by assigning scores for whether specific aid information was published, combined with an organisational level assessment of whether the donor is participating in the International Aid Transparency Initiative, and whether they have a Freedom of Information law (or equivalent disclosure policy).

http://www.publishwhatyoufund.org/resources/index/2011-index/

**2011 Bribe Payers Index**
Transparency International, 2011

The Bribe Payers Index is a unique tool which captures the supply side of international bribery, specifically focussing on bribes paid by the private sector. The 2011 Index ranks 28 of the world's largest economies according to the likelihood of firms from these countries to bribe when doing business abroad. It is based on the results of Transparency International's 2011 Bribe Payers Survey. The survey asked 3,016 senior business executives in 30 countries around the world for their perceptions of the likelihood of companies, from countries they have business dealings with, to engage in bribery when doing business in the executive's country. A

sectoral ranking is also available which scores and ranks 19 sectors.

http://bpi.transparency.org/in_detail/

**2011 Ibrahim Index of African Governance**
Mo Ibrahim Foundation, 2011

The Ibrahim Index is the most comprehensive collection of quantitative data that provides an annual assessment of governance performance in every African country. It compiles 86 indicators grouped into 14 sub-categories and four overarching categories to measure the effective delivery of public goods and services to African citizens. Topics covered by the index include: Rule of law, accountability, personal safety, participation, gender, human rights, public management, infrastructure, education, and health.

http://www.moibrahimfoundation.org/en/section/the-ibrahim-index

**2011 Financial Secrecy Index**
Tax Justice Network, 2011

The Financial Secrecy Index is a tool for understanding global financial secrecy, corruption, and illicit financial flows. It combines two measurements, one qualitative and one quantitative. The qualitative measure looks at a jurisdiction's laws and regulations, international treaties, and so on, to assess how secretive it is. The assessment is given in the form of a secrecy score: the higher the score, the more secretive the jurisdiction. The second, quantitative, measurement attaches a weighting to take account of the jurisdiction's size and overall importance to the global financial markets. The 2011 Financial Secrecy Index focuses on 73 secrecy jurisdictions.

http://www.financialsecrecyindex.com/index.html

**The East Africa Bribery Index**
Transparency International East African National Chapters, 2011

The index aims at measuring bribery levels in both the public and private sectors in the five countries in the region - Uganda, Kenya, Burundi, Rwanda and Tanzania. In the 2011 edition, a survey was conducted with almost 13,000 randomly selected respondents in all countries between February and May 2011. The results showed that Burundi continues to be the country with the highest level of bribery (37.9%) in the region, followed by Uganda (33%) and Tanzania (31.6%). Rwanda is the least bribery prone country, with a bribery prevalence of 5.1%.

http://tinyurl.com/ckcfdu2

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*"Despite the fact that donors have promised to make their aid more transparent, the majority of them are still not publishing information systematically or in accessible formats."*

- Aid Transparency Index, 2011

*In Uganda, Tanzania, and Kenya, women faced higher bribe demands in the health sector than men. On the other hand, in the water and education sectors, more bribes were demanded from and paid by men than women in the three countries.*

The East Africa Bribery Index, 2011

## HIGHLIGHTS IN ANTI-CORRUPTION RESEARCH

*"A learning approach to evaluation and final impact assessment would give power and politics a central place in monitoring and evaluation systems, continually test and revise assumptions about theories of change and ensure the engagement of marginalised people in assessment processes."*

Rosie McGee & John Gaventa, 2011

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### UNDERSTANDING CORRUPTION

#### International Handbook on the Economics of Corruption, Volume Two
Susan Rose-Ackerman & Tina Søreide (eds.), 2011

A companion volume to the International Handbook on the Economics of Corruption published in 2006, the specially commissioned papers in Volume Two covers topics such as corruption and collusion in procurement, privatisation and self-dealing in firms, and corruption in public utility regulation, among others. The contributors emphasise how the economic analysis of corruption must take account of the broader context within which bribery and self-dealing operate. Several chapters offer new approaches to empirical research on corruption that range from individual-level data to the macro-economy. Chapters with an explicit policy focus deal with the efficacy of anti-corruption agencies, multi-stakeholder initiatives, red flag warning systems and international conventions.

http://tinyurl.com/7qbzaxx

#### The Quality of Government: Corruption, Social Trust, and Inequality in International Perspective
Bo Rothstein, 2011

In this unique book, Bo Rothstein provides a theoretical foundation for empirical analysis on the connection between the quality of government and important economic, political, and social outcomes. Focussing on the effects of government policies, he argues that unpredictable actions (such as corruption) constitute a severe impediment to economic growth and development, and that a basic characteristic of quality government is impartiality in the exercise of power. This is borne out by cross-sectional analyses, experimental studies, and in-depth historical investigations.

http://press.uchicago.edu/ucp/books/book/chicago/Q/bo11632847.html

#### Vote-Buying and Reciprocity
Frederico Finan & Laura Schechter, 2011

A topic of much interest in the political economy of corruption is the effectiveness of vote-buying. Using Paraguay as a case study, Finan and Schechter test a behavioural theory: are more "reciprocal" individuals targeted by politicians for vote buying? They show that politicians in Paraguay, via middlemen who know most people in a given village, target gifts towards reciprocal individuals. This article is an interesting contribution to understanding the politics of corruption for the following reasons: From a methodological standpoint, this is one of few studies that successfully incorporate experimental data (measure of reciprocity) with real world data. From an economic perspective, the results highlight the role of sentiments and identity in political decisions, and the sophisticated mechanisms of political vote-buying.

http://www.econ.berkeley.edu/~ffinan/Finan_VB.pdf

#### 'Performing' Bribery in China - Guanxi-Practice, Corruption with a Human Face
Ling Li, 2011

This article analyses the entangled relationship between corruption and the so-called guanxi-practice, which is a form of reciprocal conduct that is ubiquitous in China. Unlike most current academic studies on corruption in China, which focus on the theme of how the political, economic and social environments have caused corruption at the macro-level, this paper takes a micro-view. It concentrates on how corruption, notably bribery, takes place between a briber and the bribed and challenges the conventional view on the causal relationship between bribery and guanxi-practice.

http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/10670564.2011.520841

### FIGHTING CORRUPTION

#### Shifting Power? Assessing the Power of Transparency and Accountability Initiatives
Rosie McGee & John Gaventa, 2011

This paper from the Institute of Development Studies takes the discussion on impact and effectiveness of transparency and accountability initiatives further by delving into what lies behind the methodological and evaluative debates currently surrounding governance and accountability work. It illustrates how choices about methods are made in the context of impact assessment designs driven by different objectives and different ideological and epistemological underpinnings. The authors argue that these differences are articulated as methodological debates, obscuring vital issues underlying accountability work which are about power and politics rather than methodological technicalities.

http://tinyurl.com/d24crxe

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### Handbook of Global Research and Practice in Corruption
Adam Graycar & Russell G. Smith (eds.), 2011

This Handbook provides a critical analysis of the key issues of corruption and its control. Through rigorous analysis and theoretical foundations, this book provides a multi-disciplinary and international account of corruption from the perspectives of public policy, criminal law and criminology, as well as considering principles of prevention and control in both the public and private sectors.

http://tinyurl.com/bm753yn

### Does the WTO Help Member States Clean Up?
Susan Aaronson & M. Rodwan Abouharb, 2011

Corruption is intimately associated with trade. However, the international organization governing trade, the WTO is mostly silent on corruption. This paper uses qualitative and quantitative analysis to examine whether the GATT/WTO, without deliberate intent, helps nations improve governance by requiring policymakers to act in an even-handed and predictable manner, to facilitate transparent trade-related policymaking and to provide due process to such policymaking by allowing individuals to comment on and challenge trade related regulations before they are adopted.

http://www.nccr-trade.org/publication/does-the-wto-help-member-states-clean-up/


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## FEATURED CURRICULUM

### POLITICAL CORRUPTION, UNIVERSITY OF SUSSEX

Developed by Dr. Dan Hough, this third year undergraduate course runs in the Spring and Summer terms at the University of Sussex in the UK. It is one of a range of teaching and research activities within the newly-founded Sussex Centre for the Study of Corruption (SCSC). This course has been running since 2005; it is multi-disciplinary in nature and analyses what corruption is, where it flourishes, and, most importantly, what can be done about it.

The course uses literature from political science, political economy, anthropology and also law in with the aim of helping students come to terms with the diverse forms that corruption can take and the strategies that might be involved in counteracting it.

Some sample modules and readings for the course are as follows:

### Defining political corruption
This module examines questions such as:

- Which of the different definitions of political corruption that exist do you find most persuasive/problematic and why?
- Why are there so many different definitions?
- Can anything be done to simplify the process of defining corruption?

Sample readings include:

- J.A. Gardiner, 'Defining Corruption', in A. J. Heidenheimer & M. Johnston (eds.), *Political Corruption: Concepts and Contexts* (London: Transaction Publishers, 2005), pp. 25-40

- M. Philp, 'Defining Political Corruption', *Political Studies,* 45 (3): 436-462, 1997

### Measuring political corruption
Discussion topics:
- How have international organisations attempted to measure political corruption?
- On what grounds are these attempts criticised?

- How influential are the indices and comparative analyses in prompting specific anti-corruption measures?

Sample readings include:
- M. Johnston, 'Measuring the New Corruption Rankings: Implications for Analysis and Reform', in A. J. Heidenheimer & M. Johnston (eds.) *Political Corruption: Concepts and Contexts* (London: Transaction Publishers, 2005), pp. 865-884
- Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index 2010

### Corruption in democratising/non-democratic Countries
Discussion topics:

- What (if any) are the traditional traits of corruption in non-democratic countries?
- Is there a type (or types) of corruption that is particularly prevalent in democratising countries?
- What challenges do democratising and developing countries face in attempting to combat corruption?

Sample readings:

- M. Chadda, 'India: Between Majesty and Mystery', in R. A. Johnson (ed*.) The Struggle against Corruption* (Basingstoke: Palgrave, 2004), pp. 109-144
- J. Martirossian, 'Russia and her Ghosts of the Past', in R. A. Johnson (ed.) *The Struggle against Corruption* (Basingstoke: Palgrave, 2004), pp. 81-108

*ACRN as a teaching resource*

*Are you currently teaching or developing a course on corruption? Let your students know about ACRN by listing it as a resource in your course syllabus.*

*ACRN will not only enable students to keep up with the latest findings in their area of research interest, it will also help them locate upcoming academic conferences and find fellowships and job opportunities related to corruption and governance.*

## RESEARCH PROJECTS & MARKETPLACE

### RESEARCH PROJECTS

**Anti-Corruption Policies Revisited: Global Trends and European Responses to the Challenge of Corruption (ANTICORRP)**

ANTICORRP is a new large-scale research project to be funded by the European Commission's Seventh Framework Program. The central objective of ANTICORRP is to investigate factors that promote or hinder the development of effective anti-corruption policies. The project is planned to start in March 2012 and will last for five years. The project consists of twenty-one research groups in sixteen EU countries. ANTICORRP will investigate the causes of corruption, how corruption can be conceptualized and measured as well as the impact of corruption on various aspects of human well-being. A central issue that will be examined is how policy responses can be tailored to deal effectively with various forms of corruption.

http://corruptionresearchnetwork.org/marketplace/resources/ANTICORRP_%20informationflyer.pdf/view

**Local Integrity Initiative**
Global Integrity

The Local Integrity Initiative is a collection of unique projects assessing anti-corruption and governance at the sub-national and sector levels. Outputs of this project thus far include reports on accountability and anti-corruption mechanisms in 3 of the largest cities in Kenya, an assessment of the justice sector in Guatemala, and access to information in the health and education sectors in Macedonia. Upcoming projects include an assessment of the health sector in Papua New Guinea and implementation of freedom of information provisions at the state level in Mexico.

http://www.globalintegrity.org/local

### RESEARCH MARKETPLACE

**Jobs and Consultancies**

- **Lab Fellowships**
  Edmund J. Safra Center for Ethics, Harvard University, Boston
  In 2010, the Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics led by director Lawrence Lessig launched a five-year research project to study the causes and consequences of institutional corruption. The project is being conducted by the Edmond J. Safra Research Lab. A broad range of researchers, scholars and professionals are invited to submit proposals to the Lab,

**Jobs and Consultancies (contd.)**

either to become fellows or to propose joint or collaborative research projects. Applicants wishing to join the Lab should submit a proposal describing the research or project they will complete, and how that research relates to the work of the Lab. Applications are due by 1 February 2012.

http://www.ethics.harvard.edu/lab/opportunities

- **Managing Director**
  Publish What You Fund, London

A dynamic and passionate leader is needed for a global campaign organisation focusing on international transparency of aid. This role involves strategic leadership of a small, driven and enthusiastic team, public representation and liaison with key campaign partners. Desired qualities include: extensive knowledge/technical experience in one or more of the following areas: transparency, public financial management, access to information, open data, aid effectiveness; strong leadership and management skills; communication and representational skills, including media representation; ability to become acknowledged authority on aid transparency and effectiveness; understanding of financial and business strategies; experience of successful fundraising. Deadline for applications is 8 January 2012.

http://www.publishwhatyoufund.org/resources/about-us/vacancies/vacancy-managing-director/

- **Country Assessor / Peer Reviewer**
  Transparency International Defence and Security Programme, London

The Transparency International Defence and Security Programme plans to establish a global index to measure levels of integrity and corruption in national defence and security establishments. The integrity scores provided by this metric will be informed by answers to a detailed questionnaire (of 77 questions) completed by Country Assessors who can draw upon a wide range of sources to score each question, including: interviews with government officials, interviews with academic experts, publicly available documents, and media sources. Deadline for applications is 1 July 2012.

http://www.ti-defence.org/recruitment/defence-metric

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### Research Tenders and Funding

- **Request for Research Proposals On the Impact of Transparency and Accountability Interventions**

  The Transparency and Accountability Initiative (T/AI) is pleased to announce a request for submissions by research or evaluation institutions or consortia to develop a rigorous multi-year research proposal on the impact of T/A interventions. The aim is to fill critical gaps in our knowledge about T/A interventions and further our common understanding of what works, why and in what circumstances? Deadline for submissions is 3 January 2012.

  http://internationalbudget.org/wp-content/uploads/T_A-Impact-Research-RFP.pdf

- **2011 Global Development Awards and Medals Competition**

  The Global Development Network (GDNet) invites researchers and organizations from developing and transition countries to submit research proposals, completed research papers and proposals for scaling-up development projects. Competition Themes are: The interactive economy and urban development; urban externalities (contagious disease, congestion and crime) and urban poverty; the enabling environment – housing, transportation and infrastructure. Deadline for submissions is 31 January 2012.

  http://www.gdnet.org/~2011_awards

### Calls for papers

- **2012 Annual Bank Conference on Development Economics (ABCDE)**

  The 2012 ABCDE conference organised by the World Bank Development Economics Vice Presidency will be held on May 7-8, 2012 at World Bank Headquarters in Washington, D.C. The theme of the conference is "Accountability and Transparency for Development". The conference aims to promote the exchange of cutting-edge

### Calls for Papers (contd.)

research among researchers, policymakers, and development practitioners. The ABCDE Organizing Committee is issuing a call for papers that examine in innovative ways the links between accountability, transparency, and development. Those interested should submit a draft paper or a two-page proposal by January 6, 2012 to: abcde@worldbank.org

http://tinyurl.com/6sabpm2

### Upcoming Events

- **Institutional Investor and Corporate Governance for Sustainability**
  University of Oxford, 18 May 2012

  This student conference seeks to address the challenge of improving inadequate governance practices of corporations and institutional investors to ensure that decisions are made in the long-term best interests of the owners, beneficiaries, and the economy. Meeting this challenge requires multiple research agendas that work across the various levels of actors (e.g., corporations, institutional investors, governments and NGOs). The conference will facilitate the integration of practical questions of implementation with academic rigour.

  http://www.geog.ox.ac.uk/news/events/120518/

- **Transatlantic Conference on Transparency Research**
  Utrecht University, 7 – 9 June 2012

  This conference aims to bring together leading scholars from both North-America and Europe to collectively advance our understanding of the impact and implications of transparency policies. Topics to be included are studies of policies on access to information held by and about governments, investigations of transparency relationships between government entities and theoretical, normative and empirical analyses of access to information held by government about individuals.

  http://www.transparencyconference.nl/