



Anti-Corruption from the Grassroots in National and Transnational Settings: Imaginaries, Technologies and Outcomes

BIT-ACT Workshop – 12-14 December 2023

Advisory Board

Hasan Ashraf teaches anthropology at Jahangirnagar University in Bangladesh. His long-term ethnographic research engages with labour history and labour politics in the contexts of Bangladesh's export garment industry from everyday production practices, life in the labour colonies to the global fashion industry. He is now working on a book that explores the relationships between transnational industrialization and physical and mental health among Bangladeshi garment factory workers. His research concerns have grown to work with urban water practices in Dhaka and politics of infrastructure as lens to look at how 'life' undergoes continuous reorganisation. Ashraf's recent work focuses on Bangladesh's alleged *shift* from an experimental 'aid lab' to 'investment heaven' for global 'green' capital contributing to an era of mega infrastructure projects aimed to transform Bangladesh into a larger transnational manufacturing hub. He explores how these infrastructural interventions thriving on new forms of extractivist politics around labour, environment, and natural resources, and its resulting violent evictions, dispossessions, and interruptions between the situated social and ecological processes.

Daniel Buquet Corleto holds a doctorate degree in Political Science from the Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences (FLACSO-Mexico). He is full professor of political science at the Universidad de la República in Uruguay and is categorized as researcher level II by the National Agency of Research and Innovation of the Uruguayan government. His main research interest focus on comparative political institutions in Latin America. He was the first president of the Uruguayan Political Science Association (AUCiP, 2006-2007), member of the Executive Committee of the International Political Science Association (IPSA, 2014-2018), vice-president of International Relations (IPSA, 2016-2018) and currently is the Secretary General of the Latin American Association of Political Science (ALACIP 2019-2025).





Jennifer Earl is Chair and Professor of Sociology and Criminal Justice at the University of Delaware. Her research focuses on social movements, information technologies, and the sociology of law, with research emphases on youth activism, Internet activism, social movement repression, and legal change. She is the recipient of a National Science Foundation CAREER Award for research from 2006-2011 on Web activism, was a member of the MacArthur Research Network on Youth and Participatory Politics, and co-authored with Katrina Kimport, *Digitally Enabled Social Change*. Her current projects include a co-authored monograph on historical shifts in protest policing best practices in the US, theoretical investigations of digital repression and the broader terrain of political repression, and an empirical investigation of youth participation in protest events in the US historically and today.

Professor **Paul Heywood** holds the Sir Francis Hill Chair of European Politics at the University of Nottingham, UK. He researches on political corruption, institutional design and state capacity, and is author, co-author or editor of eighteen books and over eighty journal articles and book chapters. Professor Heywood currently leads an multi-million dollar FCDO-funded programme called GI-ACE, designed to identify new initiatives that can help developing countries tackle the scourge of corruption and the negative impact it has on millions of people's lives. He is also co-founder of CurbingCorruption.com, a resource that supports sector-based practical anti-corruption interventions. Paul is a Trustee of Transparency International-UK, where he chairs the Research Committee, and a member of TI's International Council.

Vinod Pavarala is Professor of Communication and Dean, Sarojini Naidu School of Communication, University of Hyderabad. After completing a dual Masters in Communication & Journalism and Sociology, he obtained his PhD from the University of Pittsburgh, USA. He has taught at the University of Pittsburgh, Virginia Tech (Blacksburg, USA), and the Indian Institute of Technology, Mumbai, and has been a Visiting Fellow at Princeton University. He was one of the leading campaigners for a national policy on community radio and has played a significant role in the drafting of the policy approved by the Union Cabinet in late 2006, permitting community-based organizations to start their own radio stations. Pavarala is the author of *Interpreting Corruption* (Sage, 1996) which looks at the social construction of corruption in India.

Katrin Uba is an Associate Professor in Political Science at Uppsala University. Her research focuses on social movements, with a specific emphasis on the political impact of collective action. The empirical focus of her research is on the Swedish labour and environmental movement, as well as protest event data and analysis. Additionally, she serves as the coordinating editor of *Social Movement Studies*.





BIT-ACT Team

Alice Mattoni is an Associate Professor in the Department of Political and Social Sciences at the University of Bologna. Her research focuses on the intersections between media - digital and otherwise - and social movements, civil society organizations and movement organizations. As Principal Investigator of the ERC funded project BIT-ACT (2019-2024), she investigates how movement organizations develop and employ digital media platforms to counter corruption across the world. She is a Cooperation Partner of the research project "AUTO-WELF - Automating Welfare: Algorithmic Infrastructures for Human Flourishing in Europe" (2022-2025) funded by the Chansé scheme "Transformations: Social and cultural dynamics in the digital age". She is Coordinating Editor of Social Movement Studies and of the open-access journal Partecipazione e Conflitto. She is part of the Editorial board of Social Media + Society. She is one of the three co-founders and current editor of the Routledge Series Media and Communication Activism.

Anwasha Chakraborty is a Research Fellow at the Department of Political and Social Sciences, University of Bologna, where she is part of the ERC funded project BIT-ACT. At present, she is working on digital media and collective action against corruption. She is interested in exploring various aspects of digital society, including digital policies, digital divide and ICTs for development.

Alice Fubini is a PhD student at the Department of Political and Social Sciences at the University of Bologna. Her PhD dissertation examines the grassroots struggle against corruption in the digital age, carried out by Italian and Spanish grassroots initiatives. She is a member of the research team of the ERC Starting Grant 2018 funded project BIT-ACT: Bottom-up Initiatives and Anti-Corruption Technologies: How citizens use ICTs to fight corruption. She holds an MA in Public and Political Communication from the University of Turin. Research interests: digital activism in Southern European countries, hybrid forms of journalism, fake news and disinformation processes, digital political communication.





Alessandra lo Piccolo is a Research Fellow in the BIT-ACT research project, University of Bologna, Department of Political and Social Sciences. She attained her Ph.D. at the Scuola Normale Superiore, where she investigated the accountability consequences of grassroots anti-corruption mobilizations in Italy and Spain. Over the years, she has conducted research on the impact of civil society initiatives on governmental transparency, whistleblowers' protection, and political monitoring. Her research interests include political sociology, political corruption, collective action, and relational sociology. She has obtained a Master's in Sociology and Social Research from the University of Trento and Tilburg (double degree) and a BA in Sociology from the University of Bologna.

Fernanda Odilla is a postdoctoral researcher at the Department of Political and Social Sciences, University of Bologna. She holds a PhD in Social Science and Public Policy and a MA in Criminology from King's College London. Her work has been focusing on both top-down and bottom-up initiatives aiming to fight corruption and increase accountability. Currently, she investigates how digital media and artificial intelligence help the fight against corruption from the grassroots. Prior to her academic career, Fernanda worked as a reporter for daily newspapers in Brazil and at the BBC World Service in London.

Associate Researchers

Dr. **Oksana Huss** is a senior researcher and lecturer at the Anti-Corruption Research and Education Centre at the National University of the Kyiv Mohyla Academy in Ukraine. Her areas of expertise cover (anti-)corruption and social movements, as well as open government and digital technologies. Oksana obtained her doctoral degree at the Institute for Development and Peace in Germany and was a doctoral researcher in the BIT-ACT project at Bologna University. She held several research fellowships in Canada, France, the Netherlands, and Sweden.

