

T05W01 / Integrity, Innovation and Historical Consciousness: Anti-Corruption Policy and Democratization in Global Perspective

Topic : T05 / Policy Design, Evaluation & Policy Analysis

Chair : Heike Grimm (Willy Brandt School of Public Policy - University of Erfurt)

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CALL FOR PAPERS

We invite scholars, practitioners, and policymakers to submit proposals for a workshop that explore the multidimensional nature of integrity conceived not as mere compliance, but as a dynamic governance capability. This workshop seeks to reframe anti-corruption and governance reform by integrating historical consciousness, social innovation, and context-sensitive policy design, with a particular emphasis on mutual learning between the Global South and North.

Workshop Theme

Integrity is often treated as a static outcome or a technical fix. This workshop challenges that view, framing integrity as a process of ethical alignment, adaptive governance, and continuous innovation. We aim to develop an interdisciplinary and practical understanding of how institutions can act consistently with shared public values across time especially in contexts of crisis, democratic transition, and vulnerability. Historical consciousness provides a vital foundation, highlighting how past injustices, systemic corruption, and abuses of power shape contemporary values and governance structures. Social innovation, in turn, offers tools for participatory reform, enabling new forms of transparency, accountability, and civic engagement. Together, these dimensions inform governance strategies that are context-sensitive, inclusive, and resilient.

Core Topics and Research Questions

We welcome submissions that address, but are not limited to the following themes:

1. Corruption and Democratization

- How do corruption dynamics evolve in fragile and transitioning states?
- What role does systemic corruption play in the historical development of democracies?

2. Historical Consciousness and Integrity

- How can societies draw on historical memory to inform present-day governance?
- What is the role of collective memory and civic narratives in shaping public trust and reform legitimacy?

3. Social Innovation and Policy Design

- How can grassroots initiatives and civic technology enhance integrity systems?
- What institutional frameworks best support innovative, participatory, and context-aware anti-corruption policies?

4. Global Learning and Policy Transfer

- How can experiences from the Global South inform integrity practices in the North, and vice versa?
- What models of policy transfer support sustainable and ethical governance across diverse contexts?

Goals and Contributions

This workshop contributes to debates in public policy, governance, anti-corruption, and social innovation by: Advancing comparative, interdisciplinary research on integrity as a governance process; Promoting South–North and North–South mutual learning to challenge asymmetric power dynamics in anti-corruption discourse; Bridging academic research and policymaking through actionable insights and historical reflection; Linking integrity to the Sustainable Development Goals (particularly SDG 16) and broader

democratic resilience efforts.

Submission Details

Please submit an abstract of 300–500 words outlining your proposed paper or presentation, including your research question, methodology, and key insights.

ABSTRACT

This workshop explores how integrity, social innovation, and historical consciousness can jointly strengthen democratic governance and anti-corruption policies. By linking past injustices and institutional legacies to present-day reform challenges, it highlights how historical awareness fosters accountability and ethical policymaking. Drawing on comparative experiences from the Global South and North, the workshop discusses how context-sensitive and innovative approaches aligned with SDG 16 can translate lessons from history into actionable strategies for integrity and inclusive governance.