



STOCKHOLM INSTITUTE OF
TRANSITION ECONOMICS

Fighting Corruption in Developing and Transition Countries

August 31 and September 1, 2015

SITE, Stockholm School of Economics

Call for Papers

Corruption remains a crucial problem for most low and middle income countries, as highlighted by a wave of recent empirical studies. There is a strong negative correlation between levels of income and levels of corruption, with almost exclusively very poor countries in the bottom of world rankings. Even within income brackets there is however variation. The former Soviet Union countries of the CIS, for instance, tend to score worse than expected given their level of income. Even in fast growing emerging markets such as China and India the policy debate identifies corruption as the main force hindering the success of economic reforms. Policy interest in the subject is very high and many international conventions for limiting corruption have been signed in the last years. However, detecting and fighting corruption remains a challenge, as does measuring its effects on growth and welfare. Additionally, there is a widespread perception that "research has been lagging behind policy", and that the economic literature has still "more questions to pose than concrete answers."

The Stockholm Institute of Transition Economics and the aswede network will host an academic conference at the Stockholm School of Economics to bring together researchers across all fields of economics contributing to the debate about corruption, its effects, and the optimal tools to fight it. The focus is on low and middle-income countries and the role of legal institutions, with one section in particular focusing on the experience of the transition countries in the CIS and CEE regions.

Besides academic research, there have been important and rather different policy experiences in terms of fighting corruption, and new experiments are under way. For example, Georgia seems to have implemented a successful set of policies in the last decade, and the Chinese government announced an overhaul of the anti-corruption legislation a few weeks ago. The views on successful policies differ considerably even among policy makers. The conference program will therefore also include a roundtable discussing several of these different recent experiences in the fight of corruption.

We invite submissions of empirical and theoretical research related to all aspects of corruption and its prevention, with particular attention on developing and transition countries. Empirical, theoretical and experimental studies are equally welcome.

Please send your submission to siteconferences@gmail.com before June 30, 2015. Priority is given to complete papers, but extended abstracts will be considered as well. Funds for accommodation and travel are available; please indicate upon paper submission if such assistance is required for participation.

Keynote Speakers

**Kaushik
Basu**



Kaushik Basu is Senior Vice President and Chief Economist at the World Bank. He is on leave from Cornell University where he is Professor of Economics and the C. Marks Professor of International Studies. From December 2009 to July 2012 he served as the Chief Economic Advisor (CEA) to the Government of India at the Ministry of Finance. Till 2009 he was Chairman of the Department of Economics and during 2006-9 he was Director of the Center for Analytic Economics at Cornell.

**Abhijit
Banerjee**



Abhijit is currently the Ford Foundation International Professor of Economics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. In 2003 he founded the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL). Banerjee is a past president of the Bureau for the Research in the Economic Analysis of Development, a Research Associate of the NBER, a CEPR research fellow, International Research Fellow of the Kiel Institute, a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the Econometric Society and has been a Guggenheim Fellow and an Alfred P. Sloan Fellow.

**Simeon
Djankov**



Simeon Djankov is rector of the New Economic School in Moscow. From 2009 to 2013, he was the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance of Bulgaria in the government of Boyko Borisov. Prior to his cabinet appointment, Simeon Djankov was a Chief economist of the finance and private sector vice-presidency of the World Bank. He was an associate editor of the Journal of Comparative Economics from 2004 to 2009, and he has also served as chairman of the board of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. He is also a member of the World Bank's Knowledge and Advisory Council, and a Visiting Fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics.

Preliminary Schedule

August 31st, Day 1

8.00-8.45

Registration and Coffee

8.45-9.00

Opening remarks/Introduction

9.00-10.00

Keynote by Kaushik Basu

10.00-10.15

Coffee break

10.15-12.15

Session on anti-corruption tools

12.15 -13.15

Lunch

13.15-14.15

Keynote by Simeon Djankov

14.15-14.30

Coffee break

14.30-16.30

Session on corruption in transition countries

16.30-18.00

Policy panel

19.00-

Dinner (by invitation)

September 1, Day 2

8.45-10.15

Corruption in developing countries, session A

10.15-10.30

Coffee

10.30-12.00

Corruption in developing countries, session B

12.00 -13.00

Lunch

13.00-14.00

Closing Keynote by Abhijit Banerjee