Corruption: forms, opportunities and social outcomes. An interdisciplinary workshop.

<u>May 6, 2011</u>

University of Bergamo, Faculty of Foreign Languages

Via Salvecchio 19, Bergamo Città Alta,
Aula Salvecchio 3

Scholars may like it or not but in the last twenty years corruption has become one of the key notions in the social sciences. Each social science discipline has attempted to build theoretical and analytical approaches to what has recently been indicated as an "incurable disease". From these approaches increasingly detailed accounts have emerged that look at corruption from a macroscopic perspective in relation with institutional performance, quality of government, market efficiency, democracy, civil society and development. On the other hand, ethnographic and sociological studies have focused on topics as different as morality and legitimacy, social networks, informal practices, gift-exchange and bribes, discursive power, ideological reconstructions of the state, and ground level political mechanisms of choice-making. Unfortunately, apart from few scattered contributions, very little has been achieved in terms of interdisciplinary research, particular between macro and micro-level approaches.

This workshop is a small attempt to consolidate interdisciplinary approaches to the study of corruption. The notion is here dealt with through attention to formal processes, individual strategies and the generalized social outcomes of its diffusion. We believe that in order to build a constructive dialogue among disciplines as different as political science, sociology, anthropology and jurisprudence, a multidimensional approach is needed. This, ideally, looks at the delineation of different forms of corruption (in political institutions, corporate business, law and in media products) and to ground-level strategies which situate corruption as a phenomenon of large and diversified social impact.

The contributions to this workshop will constitute part of a thematic issue in the journal Human Affairs, published by Springer.

Program

<u>Friday, 6 May 2011 13:00</u>

Greetings and workshop opening

13.20-14.00
Andreas Bågenholm (Quality of Government Institute, University of Gothenburg)
Regional discourses on corruption. A comparative study on local media and local government attitudes.

14.00- 14.40
Karla Koutová (Central European University, Budapest)
Informal network economy: Štela as the reverse side of social capital.

14.40-15.20
Alena Ledeneva (UCL, London)
Ethnography of corporate corruption.

15.20-15.40
Coffee break

15.40-16.00
Magdalena Petrjánošová (Institute for Research in Social Communication
Slovak Academy of Sciences)
*Human Affairs: Postdisciplinary Humanities & Social Sciences Quarterl*y

16.00-16.40
Italo Pardo (University of Kent)
Who is corrupt? The moral, the criminal and the borderline.

16.40-17.20
Giuliana Prato (University of Kent)
Corruption between public and private moralities. The Albanian case.

17.20-18.00
Davide Torsello (University of Bergamo)
Discursive corruption in environmental civic movements: case studies from Central Eastern Europe.

18.00-18.40
Discussion and closing

20.00
Dinner

Directions

The workshop will be held in the University of Bergamo building in Via Salvecchio 19, in Città Alta. For transport connections from the airport take bus no. 1 leaving from the airport to Città Alta until the final stop, Colle Aperto. The journey takes about 30 minutes. Note that you have to buy the ticket before getting on the bus and validate it in the bus. There is a ticket vending machine at the bus stop in the airport, but you need to have euro coins (price is 1.80 euro). Below is the link for reaching the workshop venue from the bus stop (paste it into your browser).

http://maps.google.it/maps?f=d&source=s_d&saddr=Largo+Colle+Aperto,+24129+Bergamo+BG&daddr=Via+Salvecchio,+19,+Bergamo&geocode=FX5vuQId9l6TACnTvfKBQVGBRzEjHn6UrZtckg%3BFatkuQId5GeTACkxAlWDalGBRzEWpafROBxXaw&hl=it&mra=ls&sll=45.706899,9.663935&sspn=0.014445,0.032959&ie=UTF8&ll=45.70555,9.656038&spn=0.014445,0.032959&z=15