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SOC01

★ Corruption, Legal Cultures and Informality in Central Asia

Convenors:

Cekhros Kilichova (Lund University)

Rustamjon Urinboyev (Lund University)

Chair:

Cekhros Kilichova (Lund University)

Discussant:

Peter Finke (University of Zurich)

Theme: Sociology & Social Issues

Format: Panel

Location: Room 8

Sessions: Thursday 19 October, 13:00-14:45

Time zone: America/New_York

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Abstract:

This proposed panel aims to explore the multifaceted meaning, logic, and morality of informal transactions in order to understand better the social fabric that informs the meaning of corruption and bribery in the Central Asian context. The intention is to provide a detailed account of how informal transactions and practices ('corruption' or "informal/illegal" from a legal standpoint) not only mirror economic interest but are also driven by non-economic motivations that reflect society's informal norms and moral codes, such as trust, reputation, and respect. Hence, informal transactions may encompass multifaceted meanings, logic and morality that go beyond mere economic interest and that cannot be neglected when understanding the nature and emergence of corruption. By doing this, papers included in this panel attempt to go beyond the 'legal-illegal' and 'licit-illicit' binaries. Economic motivations still play a major role in informal transactions; however, the fashion, logic and ritual in which they occur show a high degree of embeddedness in social norms, traditions and moral codes. The panel also discusses how the use of art and humour by social media activists impacts state-society relations, legal culture and the anti-corruption discourse in the context of an authoritarian regime.

Accepted papers:

Session 1 Thursday 19 October, 2023, 13:00-14:45

Legal Informality and Debt-Based Trade in Uzbekistan. A Case Study of Ferghana Valley ▶

Elmurod Sobirov (Lund University)

Art and Humor as Anti-corruption Tools in Authoritarian Contexts: Social Media in Uzbekistan ▶

Sherzod Eraliev (Lund University) , Rustamjon Urinboyev (Lund University)

The Laws and Their Implementation Gap in Uzbekistan: Experience of the Turkish Businessman in Tashkent

Erhan Dogan (Marmara University)

