Political corruption - November 2022

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This summary is prepared for the 2022 three-month trial of the Forward Project of the Social Change Lab - Susilo Wibisono & Winnifred R. Louis – details of the methodology and all summaries available here: http://www.socialchangelab.net/forward.html . Feedback welcome, to w.louis@psy.uq.edu.au .

Month/Year	November 2022
Key term	"Political Corruption" and Political Corruption
Database	Google Scholar
Link to database	https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/17p2fFHcyHQ0-hhlzNb2ZV-nzAUPxBPYs1fXsVC1_lRY/edit?usp=sharing

Overview

We identified 312 documents published on political corruption on Google Scholar in the period of November 2022. They include theoretical papers, empirical papers, case studies, books, book chapters, thesis, dissertations, and book reviews. Among the 323 documents, 11 of them emerge when quotation marks are used to specify "political corruption". On the other hand, we have found 312 papers on google scholar where the quotation mark is not applied to specify the keyword. We examined the documents to examine the relevance and found 88 papers for further review. Looking at the language being used in the publications, most of the papers were published in English, although other languages such as Portuguese and Russian are also appeared when the keyword (i.e., political corruption) is applied. However, the review below is only conducted based on the papers published in English.

Methodology

Qualitative and quantitative methods are the most common approaches to be used in understanding the empirical situations related to the topic of political corruption. Large-scale quantitative analysis is also used to compare the level of corruption across nations (Joković-Pantelić, 2022; Wei et al., 2022; Žuffová, 2022). In addition, case study is another popular

approach in understanding the local and unique situations of political corruption in particular countries (Al-Awsi, 2022; Bezerra, 2022; Choir, 2022; Otubo & Kedir, 2022; Žuffová, 2022). By using this approach, deeper understanding toward specific factors linked to corrupt behaviours can be achieved.

Key findings

One topic related to political corruption that emerged in the November literature is the involvement of women. While men are currently dominating policy decisions across the globe, how women politicians respond and behave in a corrupt political environment has been of interest to scholars (Mechkova et al., 2022; Žuffová, 2022).

Political corruption is often studied in relation to bribery, which is also one form of corrupt behaviours (Joković-Pantelić, 2022). Some scholars believed political corruption to be the consequence of greed (Joković-Pantelić, 2022), thus it is considered to be self-sustaining (Jha, 2022). Apart from the individual characteristics mentioned above, scholars conclude that external factors like unfavourable historical and social circumstances also led to the rise and fall of political corruption in some countries (Jha, 2022; Wei et al., 2022; Zhou, 2022).

As political corruption has been an alarming issue in both developed and developing countries across the globe, scholars attempted to investigate different strategies for alleviating this social problem. Anti-corruption campaigns are found to be effective in corruption prevention, especially with the involvement of digital technology with the ability to track the transaction flows (Islam et al., 2022; Matorera, 2022; Pontell & Ghazi-Tehrani, 2022). A strong and well-established anti-corruption policy is also found to be an important control strategy (Islam et al., 2022).

Scholars further explored the topic by looking into the relationship between political corruption and other aspects of society. This included areas like political transparency (Al-Awsi, 2022), anti-corruption activism (Islam et al., 2022), political participation (Jha, 2022), technology (Matorera, 2022), democracy (Otubo & Kedir, 2022), political trust (Wang & Fang, 2022), economic inequality (Wei et al., 2022), and more.

Many of the papers in November 2022 were focused on recent situations (Bezerra, 2022; Otubo & Kedir, 2022), yet, scholars tried to connect the past and the present on the issue. For example, scholars have examined the anti-corruption movement in Indonesia and elsewhere (Choir, 2022). Moreover, scholars deepen their understanding by examining the relations between "modern" and "traditional" political structures. Scholars not only investigated the questions of how "modernity" forms a new structure of governance order but

also examined the reforming of imbalanced power in order to reduce political corruption
(Zhou, 2022a; Zhou, 2022b).

Selected References – Political Corruption – November 2022

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