



Corruption, Gender, and Global Agenda 2030

Launching the Regional Alliance of Women
Leaders for Anti-Corruption and Integrity in Arab
Countries (WAIA)

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Foundations



3 conceptual clarifications:

- Corruption is not the simple opposite to integrity; hence there is not simple equivalence between fighting corruption and building integrity
- Gender as the social meanings associated with the sexes; gender-inclusive / responsive / sensitive
- Innate versus contextual (socialised or social constructed) differences between men and women

Integrity and corruption



“[Often] the putative new public integrity agenda’ is not new at all, but rather a rhetorical rebranding of the longer-standing anticorruption agenda... We argue that such rhetorical use of the term ‘public integrity’ is not harmless, but in fact risks damage to the overall cause of good governance and in particular the prospects of a genuinely novel, standalone, substantive ‘public integrity’ agenda.”

Heywood and Kirby, 2020

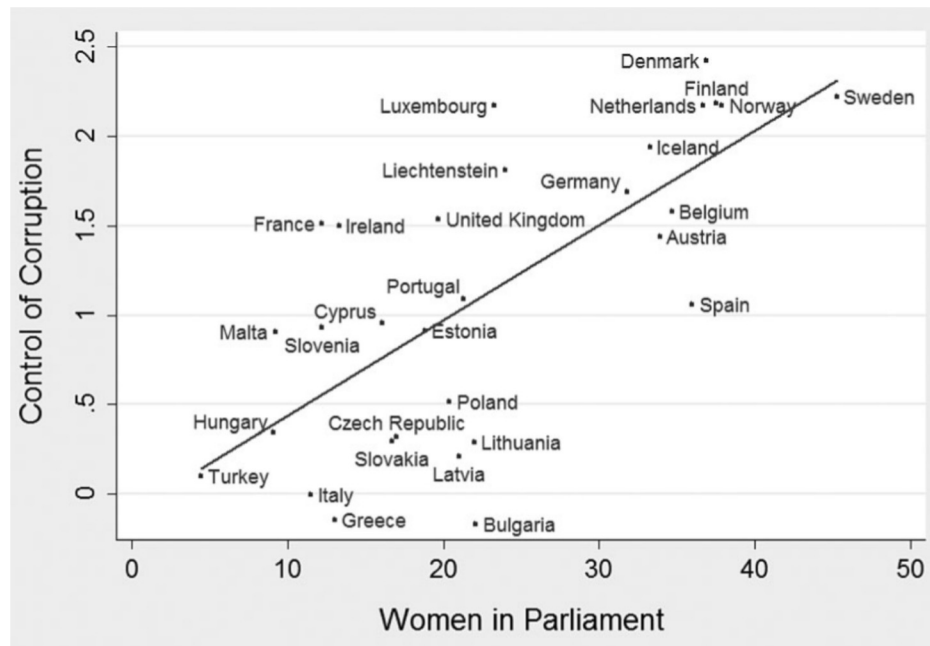
- Different forms of corruption are just some of many possible opposites to integrity
- Building integrity requires doing more than reducing corruption

Innate versus contextual

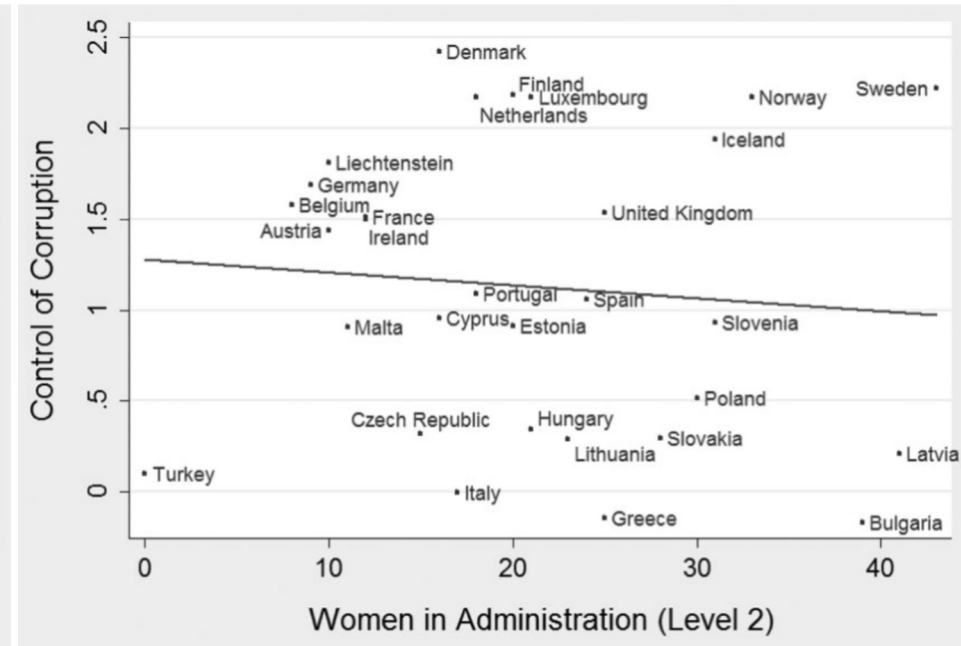
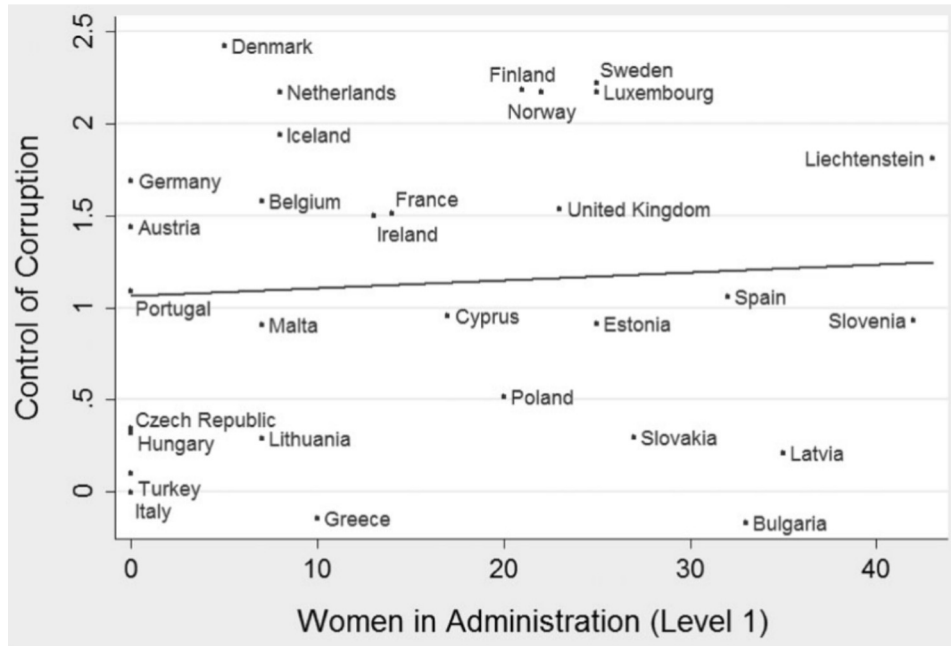


- Experimental differences in willingness to take a bribe in the absence vs. the presence of accountability
- Experimental differences in the extent to which the public sanction women vs. men for identical ethical transgressions (e.g. Batista Pereira, 2021).

Descriptive patterns



Descriptive patterns



Processes behind patterns



- Patriarchy and patronage: e.g. women less commonly make progress in clientelistic contexts
- Women who do attain power often represent different constituents
- This is one reason why women in power sometimes fight corruption more than men or focus on distinct sectors
- Powerful women may gradually be accepted into patriarchal patronage networks time

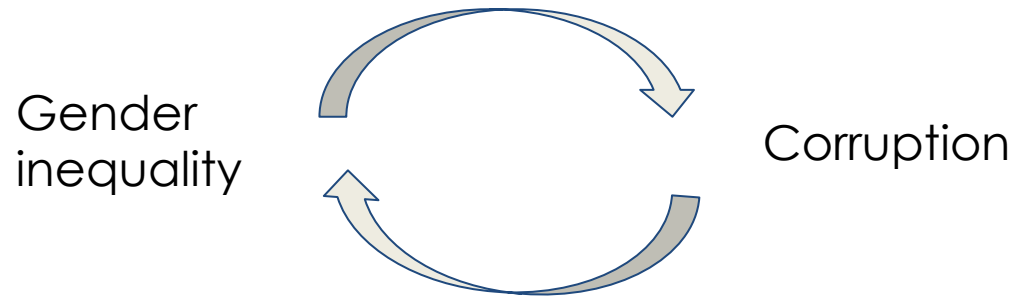
Gendered corruption – sectors, forms



- By sector
 - Corruption may affect women more because they typically have less socioeconomic power than men
 - Or may affect women more because they tend to have certain responsibilities / roles
- By type
 - Some corruption is gendered in content: sexual corruption. This is associated highly unequal contexts and with absence of alternative options

Reverse causality

- Processes and solutions operate in both directions



- Substantively improving gender equality may lower certain kinds of corruption, by affecting the processes that facilitate them.
- Cutting corruption can silently remove impediments to women's empowerment.

Policy takeaways



1. Target policies at gendered processes and substantive outcomes, above descriptive outcomes. (Collect and analyse sex-disaggregated data, but also develop guidance for its use.)
2. Emphasise integrity, as distinct from anti-corruption - and focus policy at the level of organisations, as well as individuals.
3. Limit the influence of traditional stereotypes on accountability mechanisms: consider different forms of transparency.