Is education a silver bullet for solving corruption in developing countries?

Thursday 1 October 2015 1-2pm

Grant Walton Deputy Director (International Development) of the Transnational Research Institute on Corruption.

Theatre 2 Hedley Bull Building, 130 Garran Road, ANU

Much of the academic and policy literature suggests that educated citizens are likely to report corruption, and this belief shapes global anti-corruption policies. However, we know little about how other factors may interact with education’s impact on citizens’ willingness to report corruption.

In this seminar Grant Walton draws on a recent collaboration with the University of Birmingham’s Caryn Peiffer, to suggest that education’s impact on reporting is a function of institutional trust. Drawing on data from a household survey undertaken in Papua New Guinea, their analysis finds that when respondents were better educated and believed corruption would be addressed by the government, they were more willing to report various types of corruption to officials. However, the positive effects of education on willingness to report corruption are significantly diminished when citizens lacked trust that authorities would address corruption. In turn, it will be argued that educating citizens without effective anti-corruption institutions can result in public cynicism, and ultimately undermine future anti-corruption efforts.

Dr Grant Walton is a Research Fellow for the Development Policy Centre at the Crawford School of Public Policy and Deputy Director (International Development) for TRIC.

The Transnational Research Institute on Corruption (TRIC) was established in 2010 as a cross disciplinary centre to bring together ANU expertise in the study of corruption. It is focused on policy relevant research related to international development, foreign bribery and corruption in the private and public sectors. TRIC has also developed a teaching capacity in corruption and corruption prevention, and has provided assistance to international, federal and state authorities.

Presented by:

Transnational Research Institute on Corruption

ANU COLLEGE OF ARTS & SOCIAL SCIENCES

Enquiries:

Adam Masters
E: admin.TRIC@anu.edu.au
W: http://tric.anu.edu.au

This seminar is free and open to the public.