From Private Practice to Academia to the EU Institutions
Interview with Juliano Franco

Technology in the Fight Against Corruption
Welcome Word

Dear Alumni,

As Dean of the International Anti-Corruption Academy, I am delighted to welcome you to our alumni association.

You are joined by 320 fellow graduates from, among others, our annual summer academies, Best of seminars, Power of the Pens, procurement trainings, tailor-made trainings, as well as the students from our first Master Programme intake. The alumni network continues to grow, presently spanning more than one hundred countries across six continents.

All of you share the interest in preventing and combating corruption, you are eager to learn from best practices as well as from the experiences others have made while being exposed to corruptive acts on the one hand and through supporting active prevention on the other.

With this alumni magazine – IACAlumnus – we strive to provide you with a platform to exchange ideas and inform others of your achievements as well as the obstacles that you have experienced. We seek to provide you with inside perspectives and a global network of like-minded “ambassadors” of the Academy. As alumni you are encouraged to get involved and share your ideas with us on how we can serve you better.

Currently, we are in the startup phase of this alumni association. In the time to come we thrive to provide you with more information, more interviews, news articles, and insights from your colleagues.

We are looking forward to receiving your feedback on this current issue and welcome contributions for upcoming editions.

Sincerely yours,

Martin Kreutner
(Dean & Executive Secretary of IACA)
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Challenges, Goals & Building Bridges

INTERVIEW WITH CLAUDIA BAEZ-CAMARGO

How did you get into your field and how did you choose your career?

I was always interested in pursuing a career in an area where I could have the opportunity to make a contribution to the political and economic development of low-income populations, in my native Mexico and in other parts of the world. With this motivation I undertook studies in international relations, economics and political science. One of the big lessons I took away from my studies, but also from various experiences in my country (both professional but also as an average citizen), was about the detrimental effect that corruption has on the lives of people and on the development prospects of any country.

As a lecturer, what would you say the main satisfactions and challenges of your job are?

I love teaching and I greatly enjoy the chance to interact with students because it is always a process in which we can mutually learn from each other. My favourite moments are when I have students who challenge what I say, who are not convinced by the argument I am making and this opens the door to have a discussion where we exchange views and can jointly explore alternative answers that maybe would have not occurred to us otherwise had it not been for this kind of exchange. As a lecturer, my main challenge is to be up to date with the developments in whichever topic I am teaching because it is my responsibility vis-à-vis the students to give them the best course I possibly can. This can be demanding, especially since in my work at the Basel Institute I am always involved in research and consultancy projects and it is sometimes difficult to find time to catch up with the reading.

What are your research goals during your term at the Basel Institute on Governance?

My personal ambition when it comes to research is to help build bridges between the academic world and that of implementers. I find that there is very little cross-fertilization and this is a shame. With my research I aspire to contribute academically sound assessment methodologies and “tools” that can be of practical use to the work of the implementers who are out in the field making a difference.

You have extensive experience in documental and field research. Which part of your research do you find most fascinating? If you had unlimited funds, what would you focus on researching or lecturing?

While I find that doing the desk research and conceptual work is interesting and rewarding, for me the moments from which I have the fondest memories actually come from working in the field. I have such good memories and I have learned so much from the people I have met in all the different countries where I have worked, professionals but also average citizens. This is something that always touches my heart: that people in the most difficult contexts are often those that have the best sense of humour and also an incredible willingness to open up and share with an outsider like me.

What kind of advice would you give someone interested in corruption and development research?

It is a great time to work on researching corruption! It is an extremely challenging subject to pin down, that is clear, but the increased recognition that it is a vital element that needs to be addressed in order to overcome many development bottlenecks has given rise to a lively, exciting and diversified research agenda. This provides an opportunity to be innovative and creative in developing new methods and making audacious contributions.

What are the greatest research limitations in the area of governance?

Well, the most obvious one is that corruption involves clandestine acts, often undertaken under the veil of impunity and political clout in utmost secrecy. Those who are in have all the incentives to stay quiet and this obviously makes research extremely difficult, especially in the sense of finding adequate indicators and measurements. Even the best and most developed indexes that seek to measure corruption are afflicted with these problems. I think one of the biggest problems in this field is when researchers make use of corruption indexes as if they were exact measurements, without duly acknowledging their limitations.

Can you tell us about your work in the areas of poverty alleviation with the Mexican government?

It was a sobering experience in many ways. I had my first encounter with extreme poverty while working for the Ministry for Social Development (SEDESOL). It was a life changing experience, you cannot even imagine what extreme poverty means by studying it at the university and reading about it, you have to actually see it to begin to understand what you are dealing with. Working at SEDESOL was also sobering because it exposed me to the way in which the poverty alleviating business was conducted at that time in federal government. Explicitly, I witnessed how social funds were being conditioned to party allegiance even in the poorest municipalities. Both were very difficult experiences but also gave me the motivation to continue to purse a career in development.

You are currently participating in the EU/FP7 research consortium with a project aimed at developing ethnographical approaches to the study of corruption. Could you tell us more about it?

We are making a contribution to the ANTICORRP research consortium in this area because we at the Institute share the belief that adequate contextualization is one of the most important determinants of any anti-corruption intervention. We are specifically studying the determinants of success of social accountability initiatives that aim to target corruption in the provision of public services. I believe that we need to understand some essential characteristics of the target populations (such as modalities of participation in community or civil society organizations, social norms and values, and understandings and perceptions of corruption) in order to be able to develop adequate and sustainable anti-corruption participatory strategies.

Dr. Claudia Baez-Camargo (Mexico) has been a senior researcher and consultant at the Basel Institute on Governance in the area of public governance since 2009. Before joining the Institute she was Associate Professor of political science and history at William Paterson University in the USA. Her professional experiences include working for the Mexican Federal Government and the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean.

Claudia lectures on corruption and development as well as qualitative and quantitative research methods and their application in IACA’s Master in Anti-Corruption Studies (MACS) programme.
Advanced Analytics & Artificial Intelligence in Corruption Prevention

BY GABER CERLE AND MITJA JERMOL

In the last few years significant advancements have been achieved in the areas of semantic, knowledge and context technologies, and recently methods for big data analytics in particular. These technologies are becoming especially effective when applied to the analytics of complex information spaces usually available in multimodal and multilingual form. Nowadays, methods and algorithms have proved to be successful in many domains providing shallow and deep strategic analytics, media and text understanding, network analysis, formalization, and automated reuse of knowledge.

Fighting against corruption is becoming one of the most important societal imperatives towards transparent and trustful governing. There are many clear corruption cases that can be detected without analytics, but there are many more, sophisticated cases that cannot be identified due to much higher complexity. The main problem is not to identify the particular case, but to find, recognize, and model the systemic corruption patterns.

There exists much data and information that provide footprints of corruption cases. In many cases, this data is stored in multimodal form in distributed sources which are being maintained by different entities. There are norms and legislation rules that limit the ability for data access and integration, while on the other hand activities such as open government, open access and open data provide a solid environment for data analytics. The wide availability of concrete, factual data, and advances in knowledge representation, reasoning and machine learning technologies are driving current trends in the area of semantic, knowledge and context technologies towards a merging of so-called top-down (knowledge formalization) with bottom-up (knowledge extraction) methods.

Since the CPC had already acquired millions of records about public spending and procurement at that time, a common interest was identified immediately. Several initiatives have started towards the development of an integrated analytical environment to fight corruption, including base tests and prototypes, as well as dissemination events in the framework of the European Partners against Corruption (EPAC/EACN) network. During the EPAC/EACN Annual Conference in Barcelona in 2012, AILAB organized a successful workshop to demonstrate the relevant technology it developed together with partners from EU projects. Following this, AILAB, the EPAC/EACN network, and the European Commission’s DG HOME organized a two-day workshop in Ljubljana in October this year. The workshop provided a more detailed overview of the state-of-the-art technology, its applicability in the anti-corruption domain, as well as emerging potentials. The second goal of the workshop was promoting cooperation potentials in common projects with other EPAC/EACN members and interested stakeholders. JSI has an excellent track record of acquiring European project funding and presented in detail the basic idea, potential calls and future prospects.

One of the major breakthroughs reached in the workshop was the understanding that while various approach options exist in applying advanced technology in corruption prevention, the best approach would be to seek joint funds from the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, called Horizon 2020, or similar public funding opportunities.

In the years working with Slovenian CPC, other EPAC/EACN members and interested stakeholders, JSI already identified several case scenarios where the above mentioned analytics could significantly improve corruption prevention. Here we mention some of them.

Scenario 1: Conflict of interest

Public employees can be subjects of a possible conflict of interest where corruption cases may occur. Usually, the identification of possible conflicts of interest is done by researching kinship relations and direct or first level indirect connections to commercial organizations of public employee of interest. Companies owned by a public employee or his/her next of kin are usually listed on the non-compete lists as well. However, in particular in cases where opening a new company involves a silent partner or even several partners with seemingly no direct connections, the creation of such records is almost impossible. Applying advanced, large data analytics and modelling methods can significantly contribute to the understanding of such cases. Being able to model the complex space of millions of records allows us to find not only first order relations but also causal relations, deep connections and complex patterns. A system that uses such constructed patterns of relations is able to detect and alert investigators about new potential conflicts of interest when they start to appear, and is also able to detect micro trends that might lead to systemic corruption. Furthermore, detection models are constantly being adapted to new findings, which means that the accuracy of detection is always improving.

Figure: Collaboration diagram between legal entities in the Sixth Framework Programme (FP6)
Scenario 2 – Public procurement

Within the process of public procurement, several obvious steps offer higher exposure to corruption risks. These steps can already be monitored and managed manually.

Using advanced analytics, however, allows for knowledge extraction, reasoning, and prediction techniques not only in obvious cases, such as checking the consistency of all clauses that have been implemented while undergoing a certain procurement case, but also the assessment of inappropriate definitions in procurement. In addition, possible informal networks/patterns can be identified even before the procurement procedure is underway.

Scenario 3 – Identification of domains with higher corruption risks

By using data on public procurement, public spending, public employees, and commercial companies, can be enriched with external data such as news articles and social networks in order to get better models. This would not only allow for risk monitoring and identification, but also for the analysis and detection of high risk areas. Such information can, for example, be proactively used by the system to educate and alert users before committing potential corruption risk activity. This can only be enabled with the help of Artificial Intelligence Systems that can help and advise employees about potential threats.

Gaber Cerle (Slovenia) is the Project Manager of VideoLectures. NET at the Centre for Knowledge Transfer in Information Technologies at the Jozef Stefan Institute in Ljubljana, Slovenia. Up to 2012, he was the Director of Our Space Ltd. Gaber holds a degree in information security and business economics.

Mitja Jermol (Slovenia) is the Head of the Centre for Knowledge Transfer in Information Technologies at the Jozef Stefan Institute in Ljubljana, Slovenia. He has been doing research and development on cybernetics, CAD-CAM systems and artificial intelligence. He holds an MSc. in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Ljubljana, and is currently finishing his Ph.D. thesis entitled ‘Knowledge management in Adaptive Virtual Enterprise’. Mitja is particularly interested in new knowledge management models, contemporary models and theories of knowledge and in integrating complexity in knowledge management.

Figure: Automatically constructed semantic graph representing potential corruption risks in elections

Future: Proactive tools for corruption prevention

Monitoring public employees is usually counterproductive. The fear of a “big brother” has been further intensified by the recent discoveries of whistleblowers. Constructed models from data can be used to automatically develop knowledge and rules that can be proactively used by the system to educate and alert users before committing potential corruption risk activity. This can only be enabled with the help of Artificial Intelligence Systems that can help and advise employees about potential threats.

What aspects of your career do you find most rewarding?

In my previous job at the Academy of European Law, I was constantly learning. I organized many trainings and workshops. In my current job I deal with citizens’ complaints of maladministration and am always happy when I can help correct the wrong and change the behavior of the EU bureaucracy. Citizens are always the weakest link in this scenario.

What is a day in your job like?

A typical day in my job consists of analyzing cases and proposing solutions. I regularly meet with other colleagues and am constantly on the phone with different EU institutions. My work is very reflective.

What are some of the greatest challenges you face in conducting complaints of maladministration in the activities of EU institutions, bodies, offices, and agencies?

The very nature of my work is challenging. I deal with a multiplicity of cases, be it from an EU staff member, a Greek farmer unhappy with the subsidiary system or a city lawyer. The scope of problems is immense. I am again always learning and this allows me to develop both professionally and personally.

You have worked in a private practice, at an academy, and an EU institution. How do these work environments differ?

Although these work environments differ, they also complement each other. If you have a draft legal work in front of you, you can’t do it without making use of academic resources, drawing on private practice experiences, and EU frameworks.

To what extent did your traineeship in the Legal Service of the European Commission assist you with getting your current job? What advice could you offer to someone seeking a career in the EU institutions?

The traineeship at the European Commission opened my eyes to what a job in an EU institution could look like. My mentor showed me the ropes – from international procedures, to missions, and meetings. You learn quite a lot as a young person and it helps introduce you to the system. My basic advice is that there is huge potential in getting an EU job. The Commission alone employs 25,000 people. It’s really an incredible experience.
IACALumnus

and they provide a novel way of looking at corruption.

What are your expectations of Module V – Corruption & the Law?

I expect a lot from this module, and most of all to learn international approaches as I am specialized in EU law. I would like to know more about the UN Convention against Corruption and other international legal instruments. I also want to know more about practical aspects such as evidence and prosecution as well as complaints and rules at other levels.

What do you enjoy most about the MACS? Would you recommend it?

I mostly enjoy the level of expertise of the lecturers. They bring in incredible knowledge and experiences. I also profit a great deal from the diverse group of students I attend the programme with. I really enjoy that we can all speak freely and this adds to the learning process. I’m very happy with the MACS and would recommend it.

Do you find it difficult to balance your career and studies?

It is certainly a challenge but it is not impossible. All of us have high responsibilities in our jobs and we need to find time to study. One’s free time is reduced as work responsibilities do not decrease.

What were your impressions of the International Anti-Corruption Summer Academy (IACSA)?

IACSA is a great programme and it’s good fun. It’s important to have fun when doing things. Seventy people from around the world come together. It opens your mind and your horizon. You get new perceptions and it brings you down to earth. It promotes a community spirit and you learn that you cannot fight corruption alone.

Juliano Franco (Portugal) is a legal officer at the European Ombudsman since 2005. He conducts investigations of complaints of maladministration in the activities of EU institutions, bodies, offices, and agencies. His previous experiences include serving as the Course Director at the Academy of European Law in Trier, Germany, a trainee in the Legal Service of the European Commission, and a private practice lawyer in Leiria, Portugal.

Juliano was a participant in the 2012 intake of IACA’s Master in Anti-Corruption Studies (MACS) programme. He was also a student of the 2012 International Anti-Corruption Summer Academy (IACSA).

Fighting Corruption in the Private Sector – The Role of IACA

BY DAVID GIONET-LANDRY

The global fight against corruption is gaining momentum, which is unlikely to falter in the near future, with an increasing number of countries joining multilateral initiatives to fight corruption every year. The United States is heavily rumoured to be joining the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative in the upcoming months. The EITI is a standard that countries can adopt to ensure transparency around their natural resources revenues. This makes embezzlement more difficult in these countries, as their natural resources income becomes public knowledge.

This important push for transparency in the United States comes at a time when the role of the private sector in the global fight against corruption is garnering increasing public attention. This is perfectly understandable, as the economic costs of corruption are astounding. The World Economic Forum estimates that corruption costs the world economy over 5 percent of its output, that is, over $2.6 Trillion per year. Additionally, according to the World Bank, over $1 Trillion dollars is paid in bribes each year. Therefore, the prevention of corruption represents a crucial economic endeavour, particularly for developing countries, which are disproportionately affected by the problem.

As recently as the 1990s, a number industrialized countries allowed their publically traded firms to include bribes paid to foreign officials as deductible business expenses in their tax reports. New legislation in many countries has not only put a halt to this practice, but has also made it punishable by law. For example, with the creation of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA) in the United States, a number of firms caught paying bribes to foreign officials have been subjected to criminal and civil enforcement actions, which have resulted in substantive fines and bans from federal procurement contracting. This has fostered more transparent practices among companies that fall under those laws. Additionally, it marks a 180-degree turn in the way of doing business abroad, and represents a crucial step in the fight against corruption.

IACA has a key role to play in those activities. With a membership approaching 60, the young International Organization is making an important splash in the anti-corruption world. IACA not only trains individuals in anti-corruption, but it also establishes the benchmark for the “best practices” in that field. While other organizations are promoting the global fight against corruption, IACA is quickly becoming a thought leader in that field. Additionally, by connecting individuals from both the public and private sectors as part of its training programmes, IACA can effectively act as a catalyst for many types of initiatives that tackle the problem of corruption.

David Gionet-Landry (Canada) joined IACA as an intern in the summer of 2013. In the months before, David completed his Master of Science in Global Governance and Diplomacy at the University of Oxford, where his research explored the effects of corruption on democratic satisfaction. He also attended the “Best of Bo Rothstein” seminar at IACA in December of 2012.
The African Continent: Contrasts & Paradoxes

BY PIERRE CÉLESTIN BAKUNDA

When one analyses the bankruptcy of the African continent, one could wonder why since its independence in the 1960s, it did not produce an effective elite to manage countries accordingly. The paradox is that a lot of managers were trained at European universities but once they got back home they did not feel like working fairly for their new nations. The main problem may be the barriers they encountered from the leaders who did not change their mentality and used force to deal with their subordinates. This might also be the reason why those highly qualified Africans preferred to flee their countries in order to live abroad where they would not face social injustice. If one was working in a bank and had the notion of how to improve its management, he or she could face harassment from anyone who had no knowledge of the bank operations to dictate to him/her what to do because he/she was brought there by a high ranking relative. In this respect, banks went bankrupt and the IMF and World Bank were asked to rescue those which had been victims of mismanagement.

The IMF and the World Bank are working regularly on several issues of assistance to member countries and have launched numerous joint initiatives. The conditions for cooperation acts have been defined in a concordat in 1989, to ensure effective cooperation in which responsibility is shared. When a developing country requires a credit from any of these institutions, the latter imposes on them a rate that is sometimes higher than normal, which constrains the country applying for the credit from becoming solvent in the long run. Negotiations follow to reduce the debt burden or outright cancellation. Why do developing countries not come to honour their commitments? One can say that these institutions subject developing countries to severe conditions of finance. In some cases, the debt becomes colossal due to accumulations. In other words, when an African country does not pay the interests, the debts are capitalized and added to previous capital to make a much larger credit. It is then necessary to negotiate lower charges or even the annulation of the debt. However, it is essential to justify the reasons that led to the bankruptcy in order to get a saving technology at a cost of labour as they aim for higher quality. The trade between developed countries and developing countries seems to benefit developed countries more. Raw materials from Africa are bought cheap by Western buyers. Once processed, the raw materials come back to African countries as finished products and are sold at exorbitant prices. The raw materials of Africa are weak in international market demand and therefore the terms of trade continue deteriorating. It was only found that persistence farms were willing to relax the terms of trade in favour of poor countries in case those poor countries would develop themselves too quickly.

Many African economies are dependent on a few commodities such as cash crops, coffee, tea, cocoa, cotton, etc. This makes them vulnerable to international price shocks. While other countries in the world are able to increase production resources between different activities to suit price shocks, African countries do not have this intention. Much of the African economy is managed by foreign multinational companies and the financial stock assets of companies do not belong to African countries. Profits are repatriated in developed countries. The foreign aid means that the flow of aid comes from developed countries to developing countries. Supposedly, such aid is given to help African countries achieve economic independence; but it actually can create more dependence on the developed world. Today, after the end of the fifth decade of independence, Africa still has the world’s least developed countries. With this in mind, mismanagement of public affairs and corruption contributes to the weakening of the African continent.

Corruption

In Africa, corruption has become a way of life. You cannot get what you want without giving a bribe. For one service or another, even in order to have access to employment, one must corrupt those in charge of recruitment in order to be hired. This has made life worse in Africa because the African economy is already bad. How can we get money to bribe while poverty persists? This was a negative experience for most people and made life difficult day after day. As a result, corruption is a scourge that has destroyed Africa because it spoils the principle of public services and blocks any assistance to those who cannot afford to bribe each time the so-called local officials need to deal with a file. Corruption has infiltrated some public services and they are wreaking havoc – whether medical, legal or otherwise, it is positioned between having and being, but toward the face of “having”. This virus has reached a pace that cannot be reversed easily, because everyone knows that corruption is a way of acquiring a service by purchasing the consciousness of an individual.

Sometimes corruption occurs when there is a lack of control of public services. For example, if a hospital does not have enough medicaments, there is a tendency for physicians to seek a bribe before giving medication to patients. This means that corruption in Africa has reached its paroxysm; this is seen when a society is unable to meet the basic needs of its inhabitants. As we can...
Imagine, this shortage in meeting basic needs has allowed corruption to grow.

Some people say that African leaders are easily corruptible, because they are egocentric, see themselves and their families and do not mind the general interest. Those who are in the right place at the right time are not all reliable; they often lack education which should improve their prospects of being people, a sort of clientele that undermines the African management.

It is impossible to eradicate corruption because many African leaders are born and raised in corruption. There are leaders who shed tears and confess that they love the people and strive for justice for all, but they never use their power to make life better in their countries. Some of these bad leaders were forced to leave shortly after they caused enough damage to the people; this is valid for almost all African countries where organized coup d’états were made. Corruption has caused problems for the people of Africa; it swallowed the ability much African talent and placed a curse on the African people in creating a brain drain, seeing many fleeing to locate in the West where their safety is guaranteed. Workers in Africa live under the weight of big problems. The minimum wage cannot feed a single family, offer lower tuition to a pupil, money and clothing, transportation; salaries are too low, etc. As a result, people do not work effectively because of poor conditions and a lack of incentives that make them lose confidence in their government. Some African leaders look for quick ways to make money so a lucrative possibility is corruption. Hence, it is fair to say that corruption is a result of the poor management of public affairs.

The misappropriation of public funds

The African economy is stagnant, and for some time, in some countries, it regresses. This is a reality and nobody can deny that people in Africa are desperate due to the bad governance and lack of fair institutions. On the left wing of the Western governments, it is more subtle. It suggests that the fault lies with African leaders precisely the squandering of the old corrupt leadership brings people to the streets in order to put their money in foreign banks. These so-called leaders remember vaguely that there exist other social classes order to put their money in foreign banks. These so-called leaders together contributed to embezzle the wealth of their banks by accepting the order coming from above; hence they could also plunder in the name of the high ranking leader.

Conclusion

If Africa wants to stop the practice of misappropriation of its resources, it must find a solution in education. Education for all would be a real asset to fight corruption which people discovered when they were born and opt for it because the system around them is made of corruption. Fighting corruption must not be an individual concern; it must call upon the consciousness of each individual in the African society. The real problem is that corruption starts from the top and it is spread all over the national services to shake the economy of low income and vulnerable individuals. With this in mind, I personally believe that without fair anti-corruption education, all of Africa will become a real jungle where will people will continue to suffer from poverty, hunger, disease, etc. Is democracy one of the ingredients to boost anti-corruption and inculcate the culture of integrity?  

Dr. Pierre Célestin Bakunda (Rwanda) is a Professor of Sociology at the University of Rwanda, and Director of the Centre for Research in Social Sciences. His focus is conflict transformation and reconciliation in the African Great Lakes Region. He is a peace activist who attended peace studies programmes at the European University Centre for Peace Studies (EUP), Schloing, Austria, and the Peace Academy (APA) Basel, Switzerland. He is the author of “Rwanda, the Inferno of Implicit Rules”, “Hamattan, July 2006, Pans; his thesis, the Implicit Rules of the Rwandan Society and their Impact on Social, Political and Economic Development, Antipress, Lille, October 2007; and a number of articles on Africa. Pierre participated in the International Anti-Corruption Summer Academy (IACSA) 2011.

The Roles & Rules of Media

BY Hossam Ezzedine

The first aim for journalism is to serve as a watchful eye of the people, observing what the state does and how it distributes its tax financed budget. Today, throughout the world there is debate among journalists about the role of social media; a media outlet which has taken over the role from traditional media (TV, newspapers, broadcast, etc.) to become one of the most commonly used forms of mass communication.

The argument, as I see it, is that even though much information is distributed through outlets such as the world wide web, which is important, this information may at the same time have a negative effect on society because it does not follow any rules. It is free for all, anyone can publish any information they please, without an editor, and without following the rules of media. Unfiltered information leads to an overload of information. It becomes difficult to judge true from false as traditional publication is free for all, anyone can publish any information they please, is distributed through outlets such as the world wide web, which is common among journalists about the role of social media; a media outlet which has taken over the role from traditional media (TV, newspapers, broadcast, etc.) to become one of the most commonly used forms of mass communication.

The argument, as I see it, is that even though much information is distributed through outlets such as the world wide web, which is important, this information may at the same time have a negative effect on society because it does not follow any rules. It is free for all, anyone can publish any information they please, without an editor, and without following the rules of media. Unfiltered information leads to an overload of information. It becomes difficult to judge true from false as traditional publication is free for all, anyone can publish any information they please, is distributed through outlets such as the world wide web, which is common among journalists about the role of social media; a media outlet which has taken over the role from traditional media (TV, newspapers, broadcast, etc.) to become one of the most commonly used forms of mass communication.

Today, journalists at large have huge possibilities to connect with others and exchange information, especially when we speak about tackling corruption in our societies.

Why truthful information, and how journalists can deal with it?

To induce change people need to stand together. Journalists are not ordinary people as they have a duty to publish accurate information, to speak truth to power, to challenge the status quo, and to create greater confidence to their cause. People throughout the world today rely on all kinds of mass communication. The emergence of blogs and social media which compete with old-fashioned media outlets has resulted in a loss of trust in the media. As journalists, we can help address this by following media rules before publishing an article, whether through the internet or any other form of media, which leads to the creation of ethical standards and a restoration of confidence.

I believe that in this jungle of mass communication, the media should change the way it collects, uncovers, and publishes information. Each journalist knows that if he or she writes or follows any story by any kind of media outlet, he or she must collect evidence to prove it. This will help foster confidence in the media and unite people in the struggle against corruption. Regardless of freedom of speech, I believe that those who write on the internet do not always know or think that they have to follow ethical rules, as people know that “they have a right to say or write or show what they want”.

In media throughout the world there is a focus on investigative journalism. Most kinds of media that help fight corruption stand apart from other kinds, because these engage into investigative journalism to a larger extent and should provide more accurate and reliable information, not be entirely profit driven, and offer more hard evidence to prove their hypotheses. The media needs to follow investigative journalism rules before publishing, meaning that journalists should not only double check what they issue but also have confidence in their work in order to convince the public.

Many countries do not have laws that allow for free press. In these cases, journalists who choose this kind of work know very well that it is hard work, dangerous work, and that it may cost them their lives. However, even in the many countries without good laws, journalists can work in accordance with international media rules. I believe that following these leads to ethics and self-protection, especially in those areas where respect for the freedom of the press and people’s right to know the truth need to be enhanced. Governments in all countries somewhat fear the internet and social media. On the other hand, the media should also be afraid of its own role if it keeps the traditional way of working. The reason many newspapers had to close was not because of the internet, but because of not changing their way of work. For example, if a newspaper focuses on corruption issues in a kind of professional way and follows media rules, I think that it can be maintained for a long time.

It is true that there is a real revolution in mass communication channels, however, there is an overflow of information, a lack of filtering and truthfulness, and because of that I think journalism should change its way to succeed in fighting corruption.

Hossam Ezzedine (Palestine) is a journalists working with the Al-Ayyam Palestinian daily newspaper since 1995. He also works with the Agence France-Press (AFP) in the West Bank since 2000. Hossam holds a BA in Sociology. He specializes in covering political issues and corruption, and works as a coach in Palestine for the Arab Reporters for Investigative Journalism (ARIJ). Hossam is also a journalist adviser on anti-corruption for a number of media and civil society institutions.
Palais Kaunitz-Wittgenstein over the Centuries

Read about the turbulent history of Palais Kaunitz-Wittgenstein in the next issue. Between the late 17th century and present day, it passed through the hands of many nobles, served as school, hospital, and officer home before becoming the IACA campus.

What’s New at IACA?

Upcoming trainings
- Legal Incentives for Corporate Integrity Training (LICIT) – applications are now open and will close on 22 December (taking place at the IACA campus from 24-26 March 2014)
- Power of the Pen: Sub-Saharan Africa – applications are now open and will close on 17 December (taking place in Accra, Ghana in April/May 2014)
- Master in Anti-Corruption Studies (MACS) 2014 – applications are now open and will close on 31 March 2014 (taking place at the IACA campus starting in October 2014)
- International Anti-Corruption Summer Academy (IACSA) – applications will open on 15 January and close on 15 March 2014 (taking place at the IACA campus from 3 - 12 July 2014)

Upcoming conferences of interest at IACA and elsewhere
- The Global Investigations Summit, 3 - 5 December (London, United Kingdom)
- Singapore Summit on Anti-Corruption, Compliance and Risk Management, 4 - 5 December (Singapore, Singapore)
- The UN Global Compact and Transparency International’s Conference on Integrity Pact – From Commitment to Compliance, 9 - 10 December (New Delhi, India)
- IACA’s Assembly of Parties, 9 - 11 December (Bangkok, Thailand)
- Reconvened 20th session of the UNODC’s Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, 11 - 12 December (Vienna, Austria)
- Gender Dimensions on Corruption Conference, organized by GRECO and the Czech Government, 13 December (Prague, Czech Republic)

International Anti-Corruption Day
IACA will honour International Anti-Corruption Day on 9 December in Bangkok, Thailand this year with a mobile exhibition featuring young artists. Around 50 paintings related to corruption will be on display and many of the artists will be present to provide an explanation and rationale of their work.

The exhibition is taking place in the framework of IACA’s second session of the Assembly of Parties which brings together the organization’s Member States and international organizations parties on an annual basis.

The exhibition will start at 10 a.m. in the United Nations Conference Centre (UNCC) in Bangkok. Join us and explore corruption through art.