

# CALL FOR PAPERS

## Law and Systemic Corruption São Paulo, August 5th - 7th, 2020

The FGV Law and Development Postgraduate Program in São Paulo invites researchers to submit a proposal to present a paper at the Law and Systemic Corruption conference on August 5th - 7th 2020, hosted by the FGV Law School in São Paulo.

The conference is about the role that legal institutions play in responding to systemic political corruption. The purpose is not only to assemble evidence of the impact of legal interventions on systemic corruption but also to discuss whether and how that evidence is or ought to be used by legal decision makers.

Corruption is systemic when it is both widespread and self-reinforcing, in other words, not only is it prevalent, its prevalence is one of the factors that explain why it continues to be prevalent. Some scholars believe that legal institutions can respond effectively to systemic corruption. One view is that more pervasive corruption simply demands more potent sanctions and greater enforcement effort. More nuanced versions of this position suggest that legal responses to systemic corruption are only likely to be effective if they are sufficiently extensive, credible and sustained to alter actors' beliefs about how their peers will behave, thereby breaking cycles of self-reinforcing beliefs. Optimists about the prospects for legal intervention often also pin their hopes to some extent on interventions by legal institutions located outside the corrupt system, such as national enforcement agencies who respond to subnational corruption or foreign enforcement agencies and donors who combat corruption at the national level. At the same time, there are also skeptics about law's ability to respond to systemic corruption. Some skeptics doubt the benefits of resorting to law, suggesting that policymakers concerned about systemic corruption ought to focus on interventions—such as public education—that are likely to cause significant changes in the attitudes or values of the general population. Other skeptics are concerned about the costs of legal intervention. One ground for concern is that some interventions entail violations of human rights. In addition, recent experience has shown that anti-corruption enforcement actions can generate massive economic costs, for both public and private actors. Anticorruption laws also can be enforced selectively and unfairly to attack opponents or competitors.

We believe that additional research is required both to assemble and analyze evidence bearing on various views about the impact of legal responses to systemic corruption and to explore whether legal decision makers have the capacity and the legitimacy required to assess and use that evidence. We invite proposals for papers that will address these topics.

**Submissions:** Please submit a short abstract (250 words) and outline (up to 5 pages) of your paper (in English); include your name, CV and contact information. Please send your submission to [marta.machado@fgv.br](mailto:marta.machado@fgv.br) by September 16th, 2019. Transportation and lodging will be paid for by the conference. The papers will be published in a special number of Revista Direito GV (<https://direitosp.fgv.br/publicacoes/revista/revista-direito-gv>) after a double blind peer review process.