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Beyond Anti-Corruptionism: Sociological Imagination and Comparative Study of

Author: [Marina Zaloznaya](#)¹

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Abstract This article outlines and illustrates a theoretical blueprint for comparative sociology of corruption. The author argues that national studies of corruption, influenced by the global political movement for transparency, undermine fundamental sociological principles. At the same time, truly sociological studies of corruption are unfavorable to comparisons due to their emphasis on the situational nature of corruption in non-Western societies. The author argues that there are three analytical foci that can help researchers resolve the

large-N and 'overly-sensitive' small-N studies of corruption: the principle of social embeddedness, multiplicity of ramifications and implications. A comparative study of university corruption in Post-Soviet Ukraine and Belarus is used to illustrate the analytical framework.

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