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Subject: Invitation to Participate in four day Widening Project Seminar:

**"(Anti-)Corruption: Theoretical, Empirical, and Practical Perspectives"
taught by Julian Vierlinger, EUI**

Dear Students,

We are pleased to invite you to the first instantiation of the EU Widening project seminar series at our University. The seminar is titled "(Anti-)Corruption: Theoretical, Empirical, and Practical Perspectives," and will be given by Julian Vierlinger, a PhD candidate at the European University Institute in Florence. The seminar will take place at the Faculty of Political Sciences from May 27th to May 30th, featuring 2.5-hour sessions each afternoon.

Participation will be awarded with a certificate issued by the EUI's Department for Political and Social Sciences.

Please find more detailed information about the seminar, the widening project, and practical points below.

Course Summary

(Anti-)Corruption: Theoretical, Empirical, and Practical perspectives

The late 20th and early 21st century saw a surge in popularity of the anti-corruption agenda, and corruption related scholarship. The development arguably commenced with the founding of Transparency International in 1993, and reached its peak with the ratification of the UNCAC, the United Nations Convention on Anti-Corruption, which entered into force in 2005. Corruption, scholars and politicians seem to agree, poses a serious threat to economic and institutional development, and should thus be combatted in the name of international progress. However, while the fact that corruption is "bad" seems to pose little disagreement, definitions of *what constitutes* corruption, how it may be *measured*, and what may be done to *combat* it, do. In this seminar, participants will receive a cross-disciplinary, introductory overview on the topic of corruption, consisting of four 2 ½ hour sessions taught over four days.

Day 1. Theories of Corruption: From the Ancients to the Moderns

Learning Objectives:

- Grasp the conceptual history of the term "corruption" from Aesop's fables over classical Republican thought to 21st century anti-corruption methodologies developed by international organizations such as the UNODC, the World Bank, the IMF, and the OECD.
- Understand the tensions arising from different definitions and conceptualizations of corruption, and how they condition approaches of combating it.

Day 2: Science(s) of Corruption: Measurements from the Blackbox

Learning objectives:

- Examine methods and challenges in measuring corruption,
- Understand the strengths and limitations associated with indices (such as Transparency International's "Corruption Perception Index", the World Bank's "Control Corruption" index), observational "measure by proxy" approaches, and experimental interventions.
- Explore the implications of different metrics on the study of and approaches to the phenomenon, with particular attention to developing country dynamics.

Day 3: Anti-corruption: Transparency, Integrity, and Accountability?

Learning objectives:

- Understand and evaluate key approaches to anti-corruption, from transparency and freedom of information legislation, over integrity trainings, to the power and pitfalls of participatory governance
- Take a deep dive into the paradox(es) of the (supposed) electoral channel of anti-corruption and accountability
- Investigate the role of international organizations in combating corruption

Day 4: Political corruption and corruption politics: Uses and abuses

Learning Objectives:

- Investigate the influence of (anti-)corruption narratives on political competition, from anti-corruption protests to anti-establishment rhetorics
- Scrutinize the role, use, and abuse of the media in political corruption

About the instructor

Julian Vierlinger is a fourth year Phd candidate at the European University Institute's Department for Political and Social Sciences, where he works under the supervision of Prof. Miriam Golden. Julian holds degrees from SciencesPo Paris, and studied at the American University of Beirut. His thesis on clientelism, political mobilization, and democratic innovation in Lebanon employs surveys, interviews, and causal inference designs, and includes joint work with researchers at Harvard Business school, Leiden University and the IHEID Geneva. He has presented work at renown international conferences such as the American Political Science Association Annual Meetings, and the European Political Science Association General Conference. His work has furthermore been presented to Lebanese policy makers, and has informed the OECD's "Citizen's Voice" project of installing deliberative democratic assemblies in the MENA region. Julian is an adjunct lecturer at SciencesPo Paris, and has held teaching engagements at the Central European University in Vienna and Budapest. He is an affiliate researcher at SciencesPo Paris CERI, and the EUI's MidEastDirections programme.

About The Widening Project

The EUI Widening Europe Programme aims to build a bridge between the EUI and universities in the Widening countries by offering shared activities for early-stage researchers, fellows, senior academics, and administrative staff. Supported by contributions from the European Union and EUI Contracting States, the programme features PhD scholarships, postdoctoral fellowships, mobility grants, summer schools, fieldwork experiences, seminars, and workshops to the scholarly community in the Widening countries. Through the programme, the EUI provides scholars from the Widening countries with opportunities to enhance academic training, conduct excellent research, and produce top-quality policy advice, thereby fostering the development of exceptional expertise within those regions

Practical Information

This seminar is open to a total of 30 students of Political Science, Economics, and Law. Students from other fields are also welcome to apply if they have an interest in the topics covered.

To secure your spot, please fill out the registration form provided through the following link:
<https://forms.gle/xYEVbFw392JQWekDA>

The deadline for registration is May 10th, 2024. Due to limited slots available, registrations will be accepted on a first-come-first-served basis. All accepted participants will receive a confirmation by the end of the week.

Further details regarding the schedule and specific room locations will be communicated to registered participants closer to the event date.

For any additional information, please contact: jasmin.hasanovic@fpn.unsa.ba.