

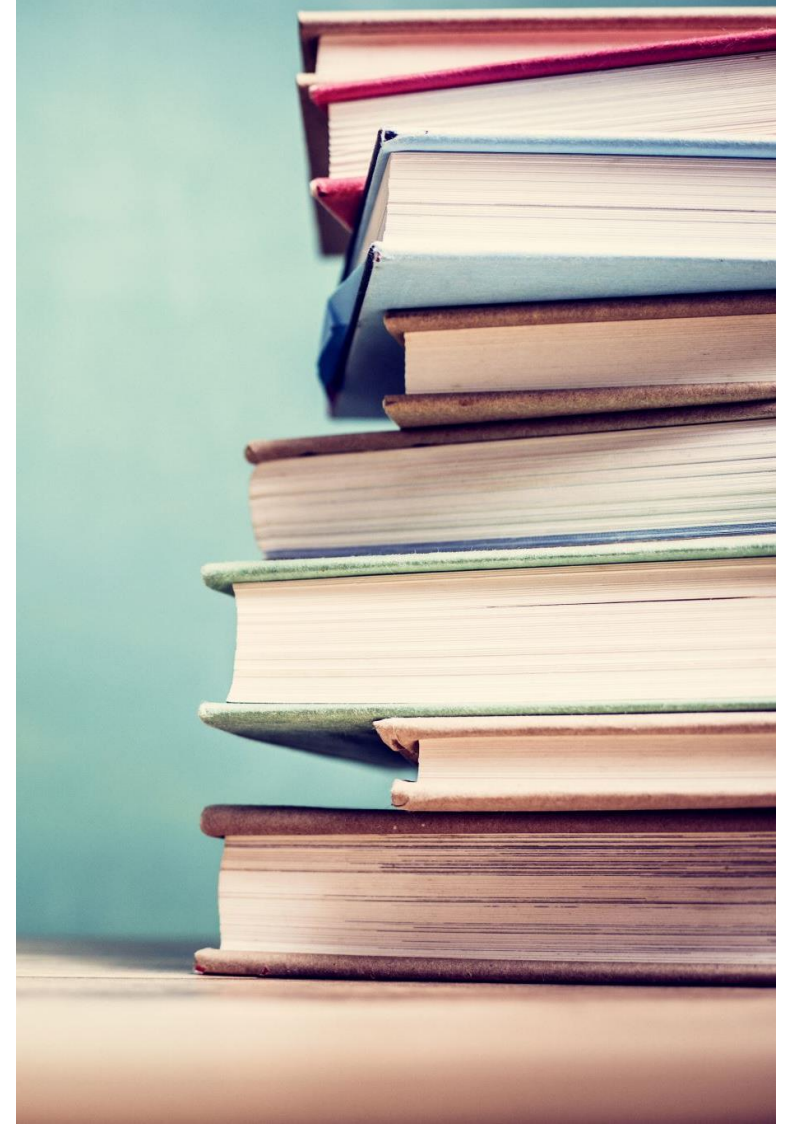


Literature Reviews

Doing Political Research

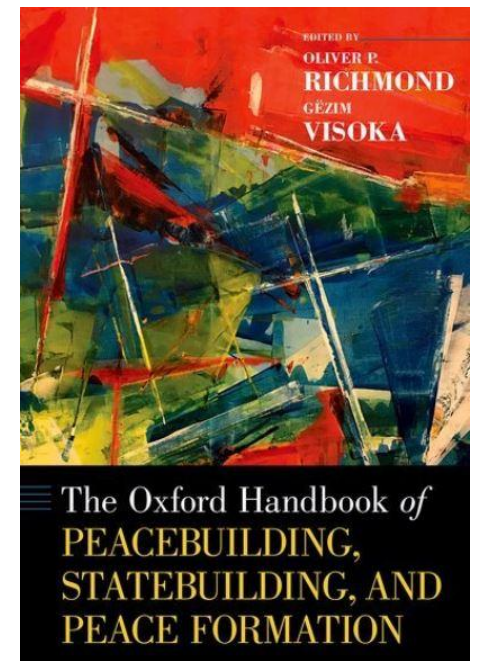
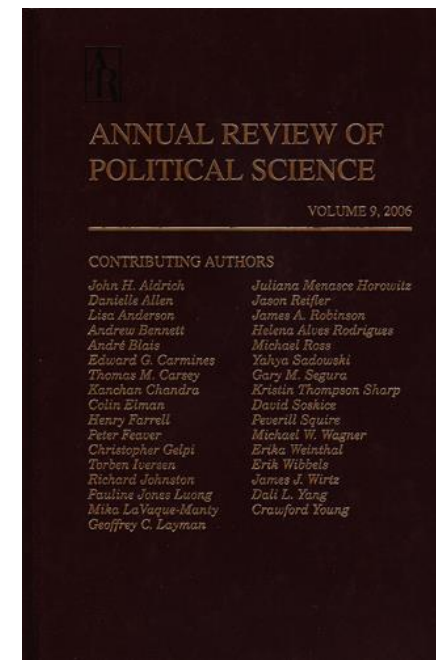
Why Review the Academic Literature?

- Essential early step in the research process (and continues throughout)
- Has your research question been answered before? If so, how? In what context?
- Demonstrate relevance, importance and/or novelty of your proposed research
- Where does your research fit into wider academic discussions, theoretically and empirically?



How to Find Relevant Literature

- Textbooks
- Review publications: Handbooks, Oxford Bibliographies, Annual Review of Political Science
- Databases and search tools: Google Scholar, Social Sciences Citation Index, JSTOR, EBSCOhost
- Recent articles on the topic (who is cited?)
- Older articles (who cites them?)



Types of Academic Literature

- Peer reviewed
 - Books
 - Journal articles
 - Chapters in edited volumes
- Not peer reviewed
 - Working papers
 - 'Grey' literature by think tanks and international organisations

Do Corruption Experiences Promote Migration? Observational and Experimental Evidence from Sub-Saharan Africa¹

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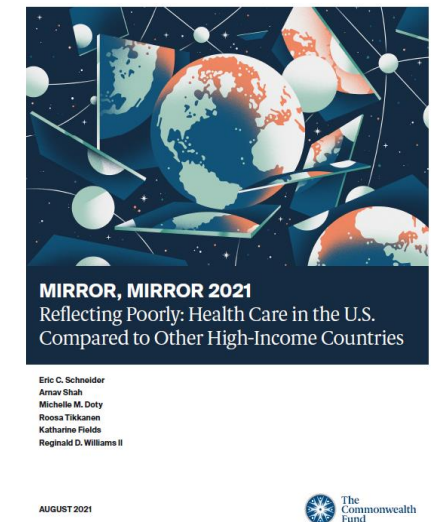
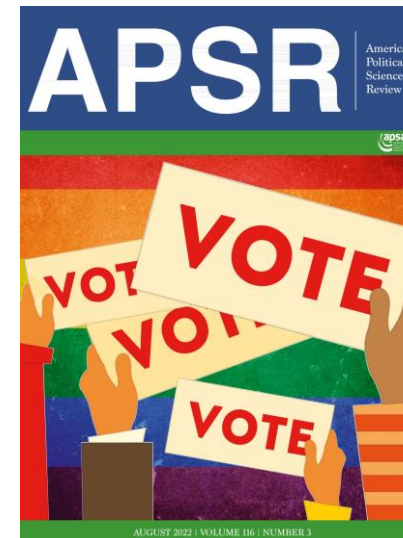
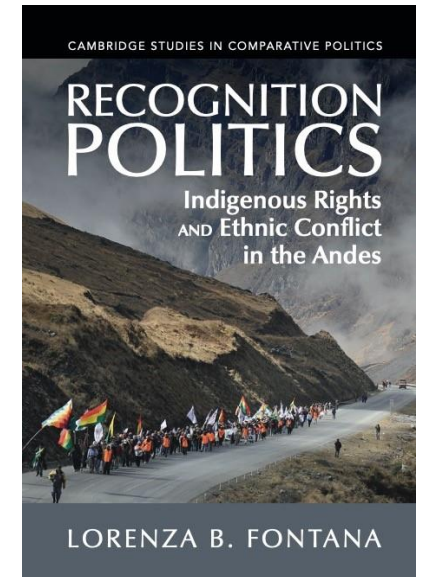
Abstract

Corruption is widely viewed as one of the major impediments to sustainable development in developing countries. One way in which corruption may negatively affect development is by providing a strong push factor for emigration, particularly for the highly educated. Previous research has focused on the relationship between individuals' perceptions of corruption and their desire to emigrate internationally. In this paper, we argue that personal experiences of corruption might affect the desire to emigrate even more strongly than perceptions in order to escape from extortion and demands for bribes. To explore the relationship between corruption experiences and emigration, we analyse three sources of data: the LPGI 2019 survey, Round 7 of the Afrobarometer survey and an original survey experiment. We use Afrobarometer to model the effect of different types of corruption experiences on both intentions and specific plans to emigrate. We conduct a vignette experiment in Kenya in which respondents rate the desirability of emigration for a hypothetical countryman with varying experiences of corruption. We analyse LPGI to explore how local-level experiences of corruption affect community leaders' assessment of the desirability of emigration. We find that personal experiences of corruption are a strong push factor for migration and that this relationship does not vary with education levels. Our study extends the literature by focussing on how personal experiences of corruption shape migration.

Keywords: migration, corruption, bribes, Africa, survey experiment

JEL: O150, D73

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The survey experiment was pre-registered with the ECRP registry: <https://doi.org/10.5555/10.5555>. The project received ethical approval from the Ethics Committee of the School of Social Sciences, History and Philosophy at Birkbeck College, University of London, registration code: BIRKPOL2021/25-10. Funding was provided by the Swedish Research Link project on 'Public Goods Provision in the Shadow of Urbanisation: Learning from Experiences', hosted by the Program on Governance and Local Development at the University of Gothenburg.



What to Look For in the Literature

Questions to Ask

- What are the main theories?
- What methods have been used?
- Where has research taken place?
- When did research take place?
- Are there any controversies or inconsistencies?
- **What is missing?**

Being Critical

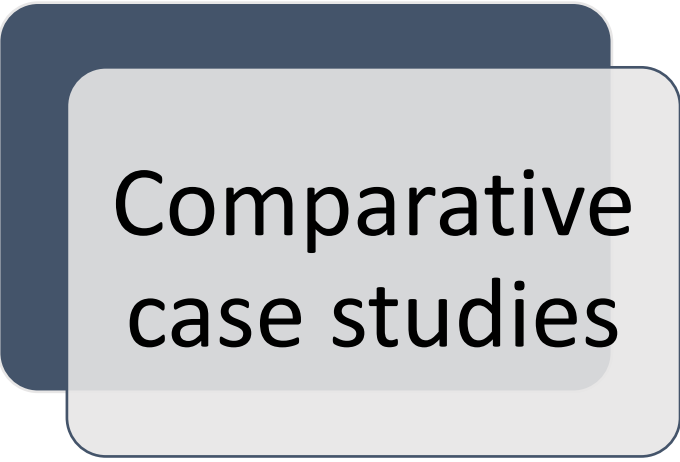
- Literature reviews don't just summarise the literature but assess and evaluate existing evidence
- What assumptions have been made? Have they been evidenced?
- What are the fundamental reasons behind theoretical/empirical controversies?
- How will your research contribute to the literature?

Systematic vs Narrative Reviews

- Narrative reviews
 - Telling a story about how the literature has developed, where it is going and what is missing
- Systematic reviews
 - Clearly defined method for finding existing literature (eg which search terms were used on which databases)
 - Evaluation of existing literature based on a set of defined criteria and hierarchy of evidence
- Systematic reviews used more in medical sciences, but may have some use in social sciences for certain questions (Dacombe)



Existing Literature as Data



Comparative
case studies



Meta-
analysis



Meta-
ethnography
