

Name:	Alina Mungiu-Pippidi
Professor of...	Democracy Studies

#### Advisor Information

Office	2.64
E-Mail	<a href="mailto:pippidi@hertie-school.org">pippidi@hertie-school.org</a>
Faculty Assistant	Christoph Abels, room 3.45, <a href="mailto:c.abels@phd.hertie-school.org">c.abels@phd.hertie-school.org</a>
Office Hours	Thu 12-16 pm

#### Research & Advising Profile:

**General Academic Field:** What is your academic field, and what are your areas of supervision?

##### Research & Advising Profile

Professor Alina Mungiu-Pippidi is the Director of the European Research Centre for Anti-Corruption and State-Building ([ERCAS](#)) at Hertie School of Governance. ERCAS is a centre of excellence in work on good governance. Her work is cited and applied by a string of development organizations for which she consults occasionally, such as the [World Bank](#), [UNDP](#), [NORAD](#), [DFID](#), [OECD](#), but also by some EU governments and the [European Commission](#). Alina was involved in the design of several good governance methodologies, most notably one to evaluate [integrity in public universities](#) published in Times Higher Education Supplement which is now promoted by UNESCO and is the designer of a new public integrity index (<http://integrity-index.org/>) launched by the EU Dutch Presidency in 2016. In 2019 she was the recipient of the award Seymour Martin Lipset by the government of Canada, in the honor of the pioneering political development scholar and liberal individual thinker of the same name. Alina publishes with [Cambridge University Press](#), [Oxford University Press](#) and leading science publications such as [Nature](#).

**Methodology:** What methodologies and methods are you able to supervise?

For dissertations mixed designs are encouraged (quantitative research, followed by policy analysis) or systematic policy analysis, but we also like more ethnographic methods or process tracing. The Centre has its own relevant databases on governance, state-building and anti-corruption which we seek to enlarge through various forms of cooperation. We encourage client oriented work and will help you find a client if you do not already have one.

How do dissertations work with ERCAS

### People involved

1. Professor Mungiu-Pippidi is the supervisor, but other people in the team might also help, and the key person is the Database manager (Till Hartmann), as he has access to several quality of governance databases at country and individual level, as well as to some public accountability mechanisms databases.
2. A client from the policy world commissions your work. These 'clients' gave different degrees of commitment, but in our experience they help a lot promote the work and the researcher if they like the paper.

### Designs

We only accept three standard designs, as basis for quality, and Alina teaches the basics of each in the colloquium:

- Policy research (a question which can be answered by more than just documentation; hypotheses, a research design, data collection; tests)
- Policy analysis (a problem defined, problem causality researched, alternative options proposed and analyzed, so even if your interest is in one option, say, whistleblower legislation in a country, we want you to do a full PA and consider alternatives as well)
- Policy evaluation (this is more of a research, and we generally structure it in two ways, before and after a policy intervention, or comparatively between cases with the intervention and cases without. Combinations are also possible)

### Further info

- The Centre has its own relevant databases on governance, state-building and anti-corruption which we seek to enlarge through various forms of cooperation.
- We encourage client oriented work and will help you find a client if you do not already have one. Some of our clients actually pay for research, you will not get rich from that, but you will feel that your work for someone who really needs what you do. We are not involved in this, we only control the academic part.
- We encourage team work and capstones, as befits a policy school. The Transparency International projects, for instance, require teamwork.

**Supervision Style:** Please include information on what your advisees can expect from you in terms of supervision format.

I am a fast reader and give substantial feedback in a matter of hours rather than days. I am flexible to group demand and run a mix of private consultations versus joint sessions. I expect students to clear a design with me by Christmas, have the theory ready by second semester and then do the empirical part. I strongly advise the students to choose a clear systematic approach (policy research OR policy analysis OR policy evaluation) which highlights their skills.

**Examples of Previously Supervised Thesis Topics: (if applicable)**

Successful theses are published as working papers with ERCAS and occasionally as journal articles when I edit special issues (especially capstones) See the WP collections on [www.againstcorruption.eu](http://www.againstcorruption.eu) (the only WP collection at Hertie) for splendid contributions of previous students (e.g. Schulz and Vargas). The NORAD report Contextual choices commissioned by the Norway govt was also a capstone- an many others.

**Proposed Projects: (if applicable)**

Project Title	Practice Partner
<p><b><u>TOPIC ONE</u></b></p> <p><b>Social media, traditional media and public trust in Coronavirus times</b></p> <p>The trust in media has been undergoing important shifts. While traditional media has been losing trust and market share both, social media has risen to become a serious challenger. Trust in social media, however, varies greatly across countries, and so does the capacity of governments to regulate it. While capture of the traditional media has been the objects of some recent attention, the capture of social media is more recent but equally problematic. In the recent Corona crisis evidence has surfaced that social media can be used as a efficiently as a bacteriological weapon to promote conspiracy theories and civil disobedience. We have a brand new dataset from World Values Survey (special wave on the Coronavirus) which is open for analysis and includes relevant questions on trust in media as well as government.</p>	WORLD VALUES SURVEY TEAM
<p><b><u>TOPIC TWO</u></b></p> <p><b>Evidence-based anticorruption policies</b></p> <p>CIPE is developing novel methodology for the US government to allow a rapid response reaction on anti-corruption in targeted countries (which experience a change of situation with new opportunities) and is relying on ERCAS to provide the template. The steps are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Research long term trends using the Index for Public Integrity components as in the <a href="http://www.againstcorruption.eu">www.againstcorruption.eu</a> forecast.</li> <li>2. Research 'borderline' countries where such interventions would have more impact (see positive and negative trends on the map on <a href="http://www.againstcorruption.eu">www.againstcorruption.eu</a>) though process tracing and policy</li> </ol>	CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL PRIVATE ENTERPRISE (CIPE), DC

<p>analysis (e.g. Brazil, Morocco, Armenia, Malta, Burkina Faso, Kenya, Nepal...)</p> <p>3. Research the difference between de facto and de jure (formal and informal) good governance institutions, for instance transparency, freedom of information, freedom of the press, whistleblower acts and engage in the policy analysis of implementation gaps.</p>	
<p><b><u>TOPIC THREE</u></b>  <b>Grassroots perception of corruption</b></p> <p>Any research question using the mega database of Global Corruption Barometer, which covers over 100 countries and has several waves. We encourage cross-sectional as well as time series research on the pooled database, on selected countries or just one country, at either the individual level or the macro level. Questionnaires are available online on TI's GCB site and databases from ERCAS. If you like surveys, this is your opportunity. The survey covers the topics of corruption and trust in government.</p>	<p>TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL GLOBAL CORRUPTION BAROMETER</p>
<p><b><u>TOPIC FOUR</u></b>  <b>Integrity of public procurement</b></p> <p>While many micro indicators of corruption have emerged, especially from work on public procurement, an actionable comparative indicator is missing at macro level. The main goals of this research are: 1. Assessing the state of the art in using data on public procurement 2. Assessing the degree of accessibility, transparency and reliability of such data at the level of the EU and main trade partners; 3. Developing a risk indicators at the level of contracting authorities and companies using Opendata.eu, the EU portal with 24 million open contracts</p>	<p>UNODC RESEARCH UNIT</p>
<p><b><u>TOPIC FIVE</u></b>  <b>Public accountability tools and their enabling contexts</b></p> <p>The Public Accountability Mechanisms (PAM) Initiative at the World Bank provides assessments of countries' in-law and in-practice efforts to enhance the transparency of public administration and the accountability of public officials. Several transparency and accountability mechanisms are studied: Financial Disclosure (income, assets and conflicts of interest), Conflict of Interest Restrictions, and Freedom of Information. ERCAS has updated the database for 35 countries at europam.eu.</p>	<p>ERCAS</p>

We look for researchers to study the association between instruments (for instance, freedom of information or procurement legislation) and outcomes/impact on practices (for instance reflected in procurement risk indicators). The databases are available from ERCAS (europam.eu for 35 countries; Opentender.eu; data also exists for non-EU countries like Mexico, Brazil, Colombia).	
<b><u>TOPIC SIX</u></b> <b>The Democratic Backslide</b>  Topics are encouraged on the causes of the democratic backslide and the varieties of populism, from Brazil to Hungary. We are interested in particular on the role of corruption and anticorruption, of social media and the global anti-elites sentiment. The methods encouraged are either process tracing of one country, or small n comparisons within subcontinental regions.	----

### Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is an infringement of § 11 Good Academic Conduct, 2a: "Infringements of the standards of good academic conduct include for instance to use wordings, ideas or other intellectual work of others in an academic work without clearly indicating the author. The obligation to indicate the authorship of others shall apply irrespective of whether or not the sources used are protected by copyright" (See: Exam Rules, § 11 Good Academic Conduct for more information).

It is vital to keep track of your sources and to cite all material properly.

The Library will offer a session available to all students on resource management and proper citation.

### Extra (individual) note on plagiarism

#### **Attendance:**

Students receive 8 ECTS for the Master's thesis colloquium. Attendance for supervision—whether in the form of a colloquium or an individual meeting—is compulsory. Students are expected to be present, prepared, and engaged in each session, and to adhere to deadlines set for assignments.

In case of an excused absence, students must notify their supervisor. Absence must be compensated with an additional assignment.

Students on an academic exchange programme in the Fall Semester should be given the opportunity of remote supervision.

### Colloquium & Meeting Information:

	Colloquium Dates	Session Title
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Meeting times (suggested)	Session 1: <i>Thu Oct 31 16.30-17.30, room: 3.65</i>	Topic exploration. How to choose a method for your dissertation- distinguishing between policy analysis (PA) and policy research (PR)
	Session 2: <i>Dec 3, 16.30-17.30, room: 3.65.</i>	Research design. Drafting research questions and problem statements. The basics of inferential analysis using either quantitative methods (regressions) or qualitative (process tracing, experimental designs)
	Session 3: <i>Feb 12 2020, 16.30-17.30</i>	Assessment of theory part written during winter break and of data collection plans.
	Session 4: <i>Feb 26 2020, 16.30-17.30</i>	Discussion of challenges, by negotiation, single and/or small group sessions
	Session 5: <i>March 23.30-17.30 room: 3.65.</i>	Discussion of findings, by negotiation, single and/or small group sessions
	Session 6: <i>April 1<sup>st</sup>, 16.30-17.30, room: 3.65.</i>	By negotiation, single and/or small group sessions

### Colloquium Sessions:

Session 1: xx.xx.2020 Topic exploration.	
Aim	How to choose an approach for your dissertation- distinguishing between policy analysis (PA) and policy research (PR)
Assignment (e.g. thesis proposal)	Concept paper/proposal
Readings (if applicable)	Eugene Bardach "A Practical Guide for Policy Analysis: The Eightfold Path to More Effective Problem Solving" King, Koehane, and Verba 1994, Chapter 2. "Determining What to Observe.

Session 2: xx.xx.2020 Research design
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Aim	Choice of method in detail. Descriptive versus inferential. Data collection
Assignment	Research design
Readings (if applicable)	PR track "Brady, Henry. 2008. "Causation and Explanation in Social Science." In Box-Steffensmeier, Janet F., Henry E. Brady, and David Collier, Eds. <i>The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology</i> . Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 217-249 King, Koehane, and Verba 1994, Chapter 4, "Descriptive Inference,"

Session 3: xx.xx.2021 From concept to operationalization	
Aim	Using the theory to structure research
Assignment	Theory review
Readings (if applicable)	PA track- Understanding policy options, Home Office Online Report o6/o6, <a href="http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfso6/rdsolro6o6.pdf">http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfso6/rdsolro6o6.pdf</a>

Session 4: Review fieldwork	
Aim	First readings and problems
Assignment	Empirical findings report
Readings (if applicable)	

Session 5: xx.xx.2021 Solving issues (by negotiations, this can be bilateral)	
Aim	Review work done
Assignment	Draft 1
Readings (if applicable)	

Session 6: xx.xx.2021 Final touches (by negotiations, this can be bilateral)	
Aim	Review work done
Assignment	Draft 2
Readings (if applicable)	