

Call for Chapter Contributions

Book Title: Corruption, Social Trust and Restorative Justice

We invite scholars and experts to contribute with a chapter to an upcoming book titled *Corruption, Social Trust and Restorative Justice*. This volume aims at exploring the multifaceted relationship between corruption, social trust, and restorative justice across various societal contexts and domains, focusing on but not limited to European countries.

Background

Corruption is a pervasive issue that undermines the foundations of any society, obstructing economic growth, eroding the rule of law, and diminishing the quality of public services. It widens inequality, marginalizes the vulnerable, and threatens democratic principles, leading to a decline in social trust.

When social trust is eroded, the consequences can be dire, resulting in social fragmentation, increased intolerance, and reluctance among citizens to engage in collaborative efforts for the common good.

As an inclusive, problem-solving approach to crime, restorative justice seems a promising option to address such serious social harm. Restorative justice works through participatory processes which include the offender, the victim and the overall community in order to find the best solution to address the consequences of crime. As such, it represents a trust-building approach oriented toward reparation through dialogue among all parties involved, while other strategies are mainly prevention- and repression-oriented, offender-focused, and trust-degrading. Also, the suitability of restorative justice for dealing with a large variety of crimes is now internationally recognised, and we are witnessing the broadening of its application to fields such as corporate crime or environmental harm. Correspondingly, many international institutions, including the UN, Council of Europe and EU have endorsed the use of restorative justice and encourage member states to introduce restorative justice programmes in their criminal justice systems regardless of type or seriousness of crimes.

However, the field of corruption has not yet been explored coherently from a restorative justice perspective.

Thus, this book will analyse how restorative justice could serve as an innovative and effective way to rebuild social trust eroded by corruption. We aim at providing a platform for multidisciplinary discussion, featuring both theoretical insights and practical experiences from the fields of anti-corruption and restorative justice.

Objectives

The book will:

- Define and analyse the concept of corruption and its implications for social trust.
- Examine existing legal, political, and civil society anti-corruption strategies, focusing on their effectiveness for addressing the social impact of corruption.
- Explore restorative justice as a viable approach for rebuilding social trust and fostering community engagement.

Structure of the Book

The book will be organized into the following sections:

PART I: Corruption and Social Trust

This part will explore how corruption undermines social trust, why this is detrimental to society and why we should care. Topics could include:

- The phenomenon of corruption: definition, actors, dynamics and consequences
- Social trust: concept and meaning, components, indicators and relationships with other social variables
- The breach of social trust as a specific social harm caused by corruption: variables, mechanisms and consequences

PART II: Dealing with Corruption: Current Strategies and Initiatives

This part will analyse what has been done so far for dealing with corruption and the breach of social trust, what is being done, what is going to be done and the results of all of it. Topics could include:

- Public policy strategies
- Legal strategies
 - Preventive measures
 - Repressive measures
 - Compensation and asset recovery measures
- Civil society strategies.

PART III: The Restorative Approach

This part will assess if restorative justice could serve as an inclusive and effective way for dealing with corruption, which also considers the need to protect and regenerate trust at the social level. This means examining the factors which do or do not make restorative justice capable of repairing breaches in social trust in cases of corruption.

Topics could include:

- The restorative approach on trust, diffuse victimization and social harm (theoretical or practical)
- Lessons from restorative justice in the fields of white collar or corporate crime
- Restorative justice and civic engagement
- The role of, and relationship and cooperation between, restorative justice, anti-corruption regulatory bodies and the justice system
- The practitioners' perspective: perception, challenges, experiences and case studies
- Building trust after corruption: suggestions from a restorative justice perspective

Shape of the chapters

We welcome scientifically sound contributions from a diverse range of disciplines and perspectives to encourage a rich dialogue. Each chapter, written in English, should be between 6000-8000 words and must be original, not previously published. Authors are

encouraged to provide empirical data, case studies, and theoretical discussions relevant to the themes of the book.

Audience

The intended audience of the book includes restorative justice scholars and practitioners, anti-corruption public agencies, anti-corruption NGOs, citizens, policymakers as well as anyone interested in the intersection of corruption, social trust, and restorative justice.

Publisher

To be determined

Important Dates

- Submission Deadline for Abstracts: 1 October 2025
- Notification of Acceptance: 1 November 2025
- The editors will contact publishers with the book proposal at the end of 2025. The main writing work is expectedly conducted in the first half of 2026, the editing during the second half and the publishing of the book in early 2027. During the writing process, contributors will be given an opportunity to meet online on a regular basis to discuss the project.

How to Submit

Please submit a brief abstract outlining your proposed chapter (300 words, excluding a short 100 words bibliography) by the submission deadline to: Daniela Gaddi, daniela.gaddi@uab.cat

We look forward to your contributions to this important discussion.

Editors:

- Daniela Gaddi, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB), Spain
- Ivo Aertsen, KU Leuven, Belgium
- Pia Slögs, Law firm Pia Slögs, Finland
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