

Geneva Research Center for Corruption Studies (RCCS)

Geneva School of Social Sciences, University of Geneva

Directed by Emanuela Ceva (University of Geneva)

and Maria Paola Ferretti (Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz)

1st Year Report Activities

From RCCS launch on 30 April 2025 to 31 December 2025

1. Official Launch of the RCCS

At the multidisciplinary mid-term event of *The Margins of Corruption* ERC/FNS Advanced Grant
<https://www.unige.ch/margins-corruption/news-events/mid-term-workshop-diverse-leadership-accountable-institutions>

Workshop Title: A Diverse Leadership for Accountable Institutions

Venue: Congressi Stefano Franscini, Monte Verità (Ascona, Switzerland) 28–30 April 2025

Roundtable: What Research Agenda for Corruption Studies?

Emanuela Ceva (University of Geneva)

Maria Paola Ferretti (Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz)

Monika Bauhr (University of Gothenburg)

2. Finalization of RCCS Organizational Structure

Establishment of the RCCS Executive Board, Advisory Board, and network of Fellows (see below**). The website has also been established: <https://www.unige.ch/margins-corruption/research-center-corruption-studies>

First RCCS General Assembly held online on 1/12/2025. *Agenda:* discussion of the Centre's strategic priorities with all current members of the Advisory Board and Fellows.

3. Inauguration of the RCCS Visiting Fellowship Program

Aimed at fostering collaboration between Swiss-based and international scholars. The scheme is currently self-funding (fellow's own research budget integrated by Emanuela Ceva's funds). We are actively seeking institutional sources of funding to stabilize the budget and consolidate the program.

Visiting Fellows 2025:

- *Mario I. Juarez-Garcia* (Tulane University), May 2025
Research focus: Anti-corruption, compliance, and the rule of law
- *Raminta Pučetaitė* (Kaunas University), October 2025
Research focus: Petty corruption in the Lithuanian healthcare system

Confirmed Visiting Fellows 2026:

- *Valentina Gentile* (Luiss Guido Carli University), Spring 2026
Research focus: Democratic business ethics

4. Corruption Studies Seminar Series

Seminars hosted since the RCCS launch:

- Mario I. Juarez-Garcia (Tulane University), 19 May 2025, *A Road to the Norm of Legal Compliance*
- Bernardo Zacka (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) 28 May 2025, *Institutional Atmospherics: The Architecture of the Welfare State*
- Raminta Pučetaitė (Kaunas University), 13 October 2025, *Petty Corruption Unveiling in Lithuanian Healthcare Sector: individual choices, institutional patterns, and anticorruption policy perspectives*
- Matthieu Debief (Université de Genève), 1 December 2025, *Nonprofit organizations and their pro tanto illegitimate political authority in liberal-egalitarian societies*
- Alasia Nuti (University of York) 16 December 2025, *Affective Polarization, Democratic Backsliding, and the Binding Role of Media Systems*

5. Research Projects

5.1. Project obtained and hosted by the RCCS

- The Margins of Corruption - SNSF Advanced Grant, Principal Investigator: Emanuela Ceva (and five team members) – July 2022-June 2027 - <https://www.unige.ch/margins-corruption> (Awarded funds: 1,895,001 CHF)
- IDHEA – Institutional Dirty-Hands Heuristic Approach – SNSF Project Funding, Principal Investigator: Emanuela Ceva (and four team members) – September 2025-August 2029 - <https://www.unige.ch/dirty-hands/> (Awarded funds: 833,966 CHF)
- Corruption Beyond Public Office: Accountability in Private Institutions -Research Partnership Grant 2025, Principal Investigators: Emanuela Ceva (Université de Genève) and Gustavo Beade (Universidad Austral de Chile) (and seven team members) – January 2026 – December 2026 – (Awarded funds: 21,350 CHF)

5.2. Project submitted involving the RCCS

- ACorrupt – Accounting for Corruption: Fostering Corruption Studies in Europe- COST Action, Main Proposer: Emanuela Ceva (and ten secondary proposers) – Submitted on 21 October 2025 – Outcome expected in May 2026 (Possible overall funding of 400,000 CHF)
- TRUST - Trustworthy Institutions for Trusting Citizens- Grands Projets - Fondation pour l'Université de Genève (FUNIGE), Main Applicants: Emanuela Ceva (8 co-applicants; 5 team members; 4 institutional partners) – Submitted on 15 December 2025 – Outcome expected in May 2026 (Total project budget 6,480,269; Budget requested from the Foundation 2,682,364 CHF)
- A New Ethics for Public Service: The Philosophy, Politics, and Economics of the Administrative State - PPE Society Consortium – Proposal led by Tulane University's Murphy Institute and the Geneva Research Center for Corruption Studies – Submitted on 19 December 2025 (Budget requested: 90,000 \$)

6. Public events hosted by the RCCS

International Workshop: Understanding Dirty Hands - 19 September 2025 - <https://www.unige.ch/dirty-hands/news-and-events/workshops-and-conferences>

7. Impact and Public Outreach

7.1. Op-ed and media publications

- [Fragilities of democracy in Europe - Special EU Report](#), E. Ceva. European Commission, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, 2025
- [Office Without Accountability: Interference Oversight and Political Corruption in Trump's Presidency](#), E. Ceva & M.P. Ferretti. *The Public Ethics Blog*, 2025
- [Quand la corruption n'enrichit personne: Repenser la responsabilité de fonction comme une question d'accountability](#), E. Ceva, De Facto, 23/05/2025
- [Albania Appoints Diella, the World's First AI Minister Against Corruption](#), E. Ceva, Il Domani newspaper, 16/10/2025

7.2. Podcasts, public talks and media contributions

- [Institutional Dysfunctions and Emotions](#), E. Ceva. *The Philosophy of Emotions Podcast*, 2025
- [43rd Virtual Roundtable on Measuring Corruption](#), E. Ceva. *Japan Network of Anti-Corruption Researchers*, 2025
- [Concepts in dialogue. What is political corruption in Donald Trump's age?](#), A. Mungiu-Pippidi in conversation with E. Ceva & M. P. Ferretti. 2 October, 2025. BridgeGap Talk Series – Anticorruption in Progress
- [Rolex ou panda: les cadeaux diplomatiques entre protocole et corruption](#). E. Ceva RTS, Tout un monde, 28/11/2025

7.3. Other

- Emanuela Ceva was elected to the Steering Committee of the Standing Group on (Anti-)Corruption and Integrity of the European Consortium for Political Research, together with Ina Kubbe and Ilona Wysmułek – December 2025
- Maria Paola Ferretti taught a seminar for public employees on the topic “IA Machine Learning and Anticorruption” at the Scuola Nazionale dell’Amministrazione as part of the program “Diploma di esperto della prevenzione della corruzione e della Trasparenza”, Rome – 29 September 2025

8. Publications

8.1. Books

- [Etica Pubblica dell'Anticorruzione](#), E. Ceva & M.P. Ferretti. Carocci, 2025

8.2. Peer-reviewed articles and book chapters

- [Office Trust](#), M. Bocchiola. *Ratio*, 2025 (Early view): 1-9.
- [Philanthropy and Institutional Trust](#), E. Ceva & M. Debief. In G. Neri-Castracane & G. Ugazio (eds), *Philanthropy: Multidisciplinary Perspectives*. Routledge, 2025.
- [Public Institutional Action. Individuality, Collectivity, and Interrelatedness](#), E. Ceva. In J-H. Kwak & K. Cheng (eds), *Relationality across East and West*. Routledge, 2025.
- [Exploring Electoral Discrimination through an Ethics of Office Accountability](#), E. Ceva, N. Stojanović. *Representation*, 2025 (Early view): 1-19
- [The Pro-Office Mindset. Anticorruption Beyond Legal Instruments](#), E. Ceva & P. Pedrini. *Journal of Social Philosophy*, 2025 (Early view): 1-10
- [Legal inflation and defective laws](#), M. Juarez-Garcia, *Economics and Philosophy*. 2025 (Early view): 1-20.

- Family and Moderation in Locke's State of Nature, M. Juarez-Garcia. *Utilitas*. 2025 (Early view):1-17.
- Caring About Our Own Epistemic Capacities qua Responsible Citizens P. Pedrini. *Topoi*, 2025 (44): 187–196.
- Islamizing Disasters: Discursive Strategies of Islamist Political Actors in Shaping Disaster Narratives in Turkey, G. Bacik & S. Seker. *Sociology of Islam*, 2025, 12(1-4): 1-23.
- Islamists Meet Archaeology: The Justice and Development Party's Nascent Politics of Archaeology in Turkey, G. Bacik & S. Seker. *Turkish Studies*, 2025, 26(3): 449-475.
- Turks versus the West: Civilizational Populism in Turkey, G. Bacik & S. Seker. In L. Tungul (ed), *Europeanisation and Eurasianism in Turkey and Ukraine: Balancing between Integration and Autonomy*. Routledge, 2025.

**** Geneva RCCS Organization (to be expanded)**

Executive Board:

- Emanuela Ceva (University of Geneva) Director
- Maria Paola Ferretti (Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz) co-Director

The procedure to grant Dr. Ferretti the status of Research Associate at the Geneva School of Social Sciences, University of Geneva, has been initiated.

- Francesco Chiesa (University of Geneva) Research Coordinator
- Serkan Şeker (University of Geneva) Communication and Outreach Coordinator

Advisory Board:

- Annamaria Astrologo (Università della Svizzera Italiana)
- Monika Bauhr (University of Gothenburg)
- Lawrence Lessig (Harvard University)
- Alice Mattoni (University of Bologna)
- Giulia Mugellini (Università della Svizzera Italiana)
- Jean-Patrick Villeneuve (Università della Svizzera Italiana)
- Alina Mungiu-Pippidi (LUISS University)
- David Schmidtz (West Virginia University)
- Kristina S. Weißmüller (VU Amsterdam)

Fellows:

- Gustavo Beade (Universidad Austral de Chile)
- Beatrice Bella (University of Geneva)
- Michele Bocchiola (University of Geneva)
- Marta Dainesi (University of Geneva)
- Matthieu Debief (University of Geneva)
- Valentina Gentile (Luiss Guido Carli University)
- Mario I. Juarez-Garcia (Tulane University)

- Rubén Marciel (University of Geneva)
- Patrizia Pedrini (University of Geneva)
- Raminta Pučétaitė (Kaunas University of Technology)
- Fernanda Odilla Vasconcellos De Figueiredo (University of Bologna)