

**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)

**1<sup>st</sup> 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 Pučėtaitė* (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 Pučėtaitė (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 Wyszumłek – 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 Schmitz (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 Pučėtaitė (Kaunas University of Technology)
- Fernanda Odilla Vasconcellos De Figueiredo (University of Bologna)