

# ***From Informality to Corruption (1817-2018): Serbia and Croatia in Comparison***

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## Problem description and targets

- Corruption frequently seen as stable, time-transcending (*static view*)
- Corruption considered as action that needs to be combated rather than understood (*normative view*)

Our project...

- ⇒ wants to expand this static and normative view
- ⇒ wants to explore how the phenomena have changed over time
- ⇒ wants to question how informal practices and communication on them have changed according to historical circumstances
- ⇒ focus on scandals

## Research setting

- Informality *and* corruption
  - Against purely normative views
  - informality neutral, corruption derogative
- Serbia *and* Croatia
  - Different historical backgrounds (Ottoman, Habsburg, Venice etc.)
  - Different (typical) patterns of informal practices
  - Both with strong phases of transformation in past 200 years; convergence?

## Research team

- History
  - „Leading role“
  - Exploring and interlinking different phases over time
- Business / Management
  - World of business as key area to understand informality and corruption
  - Focus on present time (since 1989)
- Linguistics
  - Speaking *about* corruption (over time)
  - Analysis of lexemes and semantics

## Three open positions...

- *Historical Subproject*: Corruption in Serbia and Croatia in the "short" 20th century, 1914–1989;  
Project Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Klaus Buchenau
- *Business Subproject*: Corruption in Serbia and Croatia since 1990;  
Project Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Thomas Steger
- *Linguistic Subproject*: The historical semantics of informality — empirical studies on the patterns of word usage in Serbian and Croatian press texts 1919–2018;  
Project Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Björn Hansen