

Presentation 4

Navigating the Digital Frontier:

Exploring the Role of Anti-Corruption
Technologies in Strengthening Civil Society
Efforts to Increase Integrity

11 October 2023 | 2:30-4pm

To attend in Johannesburg
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Abstract

This talk presents the concept of anti-corruption technologies as an heuristic to understand how digital media intertwine with the struggle against corruption in different contexts worldwide. Drawing on several examples of anti-corruption activism, it highlights how grassroots movements employ digital technologies to promote integrity. The talk proposes a typology of anti-corruption technologies, explores their potential, and examines the challenges civil society organisations face when engaging with them. It also examines the profound implications that anti-corruption technologies have for democracy and civic engagement, highlighting the democratic ideals they embody and their transformative role in redefining citizenship while promoting active societal participation.

Presenter

Alice Mattoni is an Associate Professor in the Department of Political and Social Sciences at the University of Bologna. Alice serves as the Principal Investigator of the ERC funded project BIT-ACT (2019-2024), where she explores how civil society organizations and activists utilize digital media, digital data, and AI applications to combat corruption worldwide. She conducts research and has published extensively on the dynamic interplay between media — digital and otherwise — and grassroots politics in international journals.

Discussant

Jonathan Klaaren is a Professor at the University of the Witwatersrand serving in the Law School at the Faculty of Commerce, Law & Management and in the Faculty of Humanities with the Wits Institute for Social and Economic Research (WiSER). He is also a Research Associate at PARI.