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DISSERTATION:

“Three Essays on the Impacts of Anti-Corruption Policies: Lab Experiments in the US and Pakistan”

Abstract:

This dissertation focuses on the micro foundations of corrupt behavior using laboratory experiments across cultures. The project analyzes: (1) the differential allocation of punishment and its effects on bribing behavior; (2) the impact of short term punishment institutions on the sustainability of bribing behavior; and (3) the behavioral determinants of nepotism and the impact of anti-nepotism policy on trust and reciprocity within social groups. Behavioral determinants are observed and policy mechanisms are tested in two corruption games specifically designed to elicit corrupt transactions in the lab, across two different cultures (US and Pakistan). The findings of this project will have significant implications for designing future development programs that would seek to reduce corruption and foster economic and political growth.