VI. VISUOMENĖS SAUGUMO REALIJOS IR KONTRAVERSIJOS

REALITIES AND CONTROVERSIES FOR PUBLIC SECURITY

KNOWLEDGE SOCIETIES AS BARRIERS AGAINST CORRUPTION: AN EVALUATION BY THREE DISTINCT ACADEMIC GROUPS

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Annotation. The progress of modern societies towards future societies can follow multiple pathways, whose central axis are different bets on how to organize the resources of matter, energy and information for the benefit of those societies. One of them is the extensive use of information technology and scientific knowledge in all domains of living, principally in economic and social processes. It is reasonable to expect that a set of characteristics will develop and impact on the behavior patterns and socioeconomic and political features of these societies.

An important thematic focus of this research consists in evaluating characteristics favorable to the elimination of unethical behavior, in terms of interpersonal and social relations, and specifically the corruption processes, in economy and politics, which are raging today in many societies.

Concerns about the transparency of political, economic and social decisions are felt not only in the scientific, religious and cultural institutions, but begin to trigger specific behaviors in politics[1]. This study was moved by these concerns and attempted to achieve three conceptual and practical results:

- To evaluate the perceived characteristics of knowledge societies as effective barriers against corruption;
- To enlight with sufficient precision what people include in the concepts of *corruption* an *transparency*.
- To identify those features evaluated as most effective to control undesirable social behaviors associated with corruption.

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[1] Rt Hon Matthew Hancock and Karen Bradley UK Anticorruption Plan. Available at www.gov.uk. , 2014.

Keywords: corruption; knowledge society; ethical patterns; transparency; social behavior evaluation.

INTRODUCTION

The phenomenon of corruption has received in recent times continued attention from social science scholars and behavior researchers[2] (SAHU & GAHLOT, 2014). These authors point out that this surge of interest is undoubtely related to the relationship between good governance and health of the economy; and Pellegrini and Gerlaugh[3] (2004) studied the direct and indirect effects of corruption on economic development. It is likely that the pervasive idea that there has been a sharp increase in corrupt behavior would be a strong root for this growing interest. This feeling is very noticeable in the BRIC emergent economies, where more than two thirds of people share this conviction. This paper recognizes this flow in current studies; but more specifically seeks to understand to what extent the features of future knowledge societies may constitute barriers to corrupt behavior; the content of the construct for various types of people; and the main criteria of transparency in actions and decisions, from the perspective of citizens.

SEARCHING FOR A DEFINITION

The term corruption comes from the latin *corruptio*, and has the fundamental meaning of *decay, decomposition, putrefaction*; physical deterioration of a substance by rot or rust (eg., *after several months at sea, the corruption of groceries was inevitable*).

Another meaning is tampering, alteration of the state or of the original features of something (eg., *the delivery of a product adulterated, not in accordance with its original features*).

Close to this sense is moral degradation (eg., *corruption of values, depravity, perversion*), a notoriously integrated sense in the Ethics sphere. In this field, it follows the concept most often associated with the term corruption: dishonest, fraudulent or illegal behavior, involving the exchange of money or services for own benefit at the expense of the common good (ex .: *suspects were arrested for alleged corruption and embezzlement*). The corruption behavior is

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[2] Sahu, Surendra Kumar and Gahlot, Ruchika Perception about Corruption in Public Servicies: A Case of Brics Countries Journal of Social Science for Policy ImplicationsVol. 2, No. 2, pp. 109-124 June, 2014.
[3] Pellegrini, L., and Gerlaugh, R. Corruption's Effect on Growth and its Transmission Channels. Kyklos, 57(3), 429-57, 2004

usually associated with acts of seduction, which implies the idea of active and passive corruption[4] .

This dictionary definition can be considered very complete, making it easy to focus on the ethical and social dimensions of the construct, addressed by the authors who are concerned with this issue. Shleifer and Vishny[5] speak of different definitions of corruption, since pure unethical behavior to the receipt of bribes by the transfer of government assets to benefit one person; but all the senses intertwine. Banerjee et al[6] define corruption as an incident in which a bureaucrat (or a elected agent) violates an established standard to earn some amount of money or equivalent.

Sahu and Gahlot asked the persons what acts define the corruption behavior. About 60% of respondents felt that giving and receiving bribes is what truly defines the concept; to solicit bribes alone, follows the definition of corruption for about 20% of respondents; less than 10% considered corruption the exchange of favors or misuse or concealment of information.

The Guide for the United Nations Anti -corruption Policies[7] notes that "definitions applied to corruption vary from country to country in accordance with cultural, legal or other factors and the nature of the problem as it appears in each country." Transparency International also defines corruption as" the abuse of entrusted power for private gain "; and the World Bank defines the ' corrupt ' practice as the ' offering , giving , receiving or soliciting , directly or indirectly , anything of value to influence improperly the actions of another party .'. "[8].

But not all authors are negative in assessing the phenomenon. Brei[9], relying on Merton, states that

> "in some societies in transition , certain practices such as nepotism , theft and bribery , may even contribute to certain aspects of political development ... Such practices do not constitute irreparable damage and can be widely good and acceptable, performing important functions for society in a given historical moment . Corruption can thus be seen more as a normal channel of political activity than as pathological or deviant case that requires punishment..."

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[4] Priberam Dictionary (online) 2008-2013. http://www.priberam.pt/dlpo/corrup%C3%A7%C3%A3o [accessed on 20.02.2016].
[5] Sahu, Surendra Kumar and Gahlot, Ruchika Perception about Corruption in Public Servicies: A Case of Brics Countries Journal of Social Science for Policy ImplicationsVol. 2, No. 2, pp. 109-124 June, 2014.
[6] Banerjee, A.; Hanna, R.; and Mullainathan, S. Corruption. Retrieved from http://econwww.mit.edu/files/6607 (2011).
[7] Rt Hon Matthew Hancock and Karen Bradley UK Anticorruption Plan. Available at www.gov.uk. , 2014, p.8.
[8] Ibid.
[9] Brei, Z.A. A corrupção: causas, consequências e soluções para o problema. RAP Rio de Janeiro, (1996) p.105.

And the same author points out that for a functionalist view

> "corruption can be a functional dysfunction often tonic for political development and economic growth . It is inseparable from the process of modernization, in that it creates opportunities for introducing new values, increases the movement of funds in the market and creates new centers of power, incentives and opportunities"[10].

In an extreme vision, corruption is seen as a way to improve the quality of functionalism by wage supplementation, so retaining the most capable in the face of forces attracting them to the foreign market[11].

According to Klitgaard[12] corruption primarily involves three variables: the opportunity to experience the illegal act, the possibility of the corrupt action being discovered and the likelihood of the author to be punished.

One must also define two different forms of corruption: *grand corruption* and *petty corruption*[13]. Grand corruption is generally committed by high level public officers, and causes huge damage to society or citizens; petty corruption normally consists of routine practices committed by lower ranking officers. Nevertheless, such petty acts together may destroy the government's and institutions' credit, a very harmful consequence.

Viewed more positively, as something that can contribute to resolve economic problems and social organization , or more negatively , as a problem that needs to be addressed , these definitions clearly stress the social dimension of the phenomenon . In fact , it is in relational situations that corruption arises as a socio- economic, political and management problem; in purely physical dimensions, it is just a technical problem.

THE QUESTION FOR CAUSES

Putting the issue of corruption clearly in the socio-economic and political field, and valuing the concerns about its negativity , the analysis of its causes is certainly an important topic, since their understanding can contribute to an accurate control of the phenomenon, mainly its negative ways.

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[10] Ibid.

[11] Johnston, M. Right & wrong in American politics: popular conceptions of corruption. The Journal of Northeastern Political Association 18(3):367-91, 1986.

[12] Klitgaard, R.E. A corrupção sobre controle.Rio de Janeiro: Jorge Zahar, 1994.

[13] Sahu, Surendra Kumar and Gahlot, Ruchika Perception about Corruption in Public Servicies: A Case of Brics Countries Journal of Social Science for Policy ImplicationsVol. 2, No. 2, pp. 109-124 June, 2014.

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The analysis of the causes of corruption must cover the several levels where it happens:

- The individual;

- The organizational;

- The socio-political.

It is important for the accuracy of the analysis to distinguish in every level what are actual causes and what are conditions facilitating the corrupt behavior. Not every study makes this distinction, but it is implicit in the majority of them.

For example, the causal reasons of corruption in developing countries, referred to by Hope[14] , merge the two categories:

a) lack of work ethics in public service, lack of commitment and responsibility, disregard for rules and regulations;

b) poverty and inequality, forcing individuals to tolerate or even to get involved with corrupt actions;

c) inefficient leadership and discipline from politicians, the weak sense of which represents national interest;

d) expanding the role of the state and bureaucracy, leading to the growing of the employee's discretion power, which enables abuse;

e) cultural attitudes and behavior patterns that favor traditional guidelines instead of modern practices;

f) the existence of a weak and apathetic public opinion, which does not work as significant counterforce.

Luís de Sousa (2011), brings together the causes of corruption in four categories:

- Levels of development;

- Modernization processes;

- Civic culture;

- Quality of institutions.

Regarding the first point, he highlights the fact that corruption is closely linked to major social inequalities, functioning as "a parallel mechanism of income distribution", compensating for the unsatisfactory behavior of the State in this sociopolitical function.

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[14] Brei, Z.A. A corrupção: causas, consequências e soluções para o problema. RAP Rio de Janeiro, (1996) p.112.

The association between high bureaucracy and a notorious lack of efficiency of the judicial system, reduces the efficiency of management and maintains failures that favor the flourishing of corrupt acts.

In the matter of culture, the author emphasizes linking corruption to civic participation deficits, remembering that corruption level falls when the number of companies and citizens actively interested in politics increases.

In the dimension of institutional quality, he quotes Klitgaard[15] stating that corruption is essentially a crime of calculation, not a matter of emotional impulse, a kind of behavior clearly based in conditions of low quality of operations and ethical deficiency.

In these texts, the distinction between causes and facilitating conditions is not clear too, as well as in the text of Sahu and Gahlot (2014) which contains the evaluation of the main causes for corruption in BRIC countries (Table 1: the main causes are in bold)

Table 1. What are the main causes of corruption in your country?

Categories	Brasil	Russia	India	China	South Africa
1. Absence of political will	**76%**	**68%**	**86%**	**64%**	**69%**
2. llegal state intervention into activities of non-state actors	13%	10%	15%	9%	11%
3. Imperfect legislation/ regulations/procedures	33%	28%	24%	25%	28%
4. Poor law enforcement	34%	36%	40%	37%	28%
5. Ineffective administration	**69%**	**63%**	**84%**	**62%**	**56%**
6. Lack of independence of the judiciary system	**58%**	**51%**	**64%**	**54%**	**60%**
7. Inefficient control and punishment mechanisms	**73%**	**67%**	**78%**	**69%**	**65%**
8. Lack of transparency and accountability in the public sector	**55%**	**57%**	**54%**	**61%**	**59%**
9. Unfavorable socio-economic conditions	15%	18%	23%	29%	11%
10. Public tolerance towards corruption	**84%**	**89%**	**92%**	**87%**	**83%**

Source: Sahu&Gallot[16]

In table 1, the causal factors of corruption, taken together, describe what may be a cultural system of beliefs and practices, which forms a basis for emerging corrupt behavior. Here too a

[15] Klitgaard, R.E. A corrupção sobre controle.Rio de Janeiro: Jorge Zahar, 1994.
[16] Sahu, Surendra Kumar and Gahlot, Ruchika Perception about Corruption in Public Servicies: A Case of Brics Countries Journal of Social Science for Policy ImplicationsVol. 2, No. 2, pp. 109-124 June, 2014.

clear distinction between facilitating conditions and actual causes of corruption is absent. But this distinction can help to understand more precisely the roots of corrupt behavior , especially if we study it in the three levels mentioned above.

THE INDIVIDUAL LEVEL

At the individual level , the causes of corrupt behavior are the actors' motivations, since all intentional behavior - and corruption is intentional behavior[17] - is motivated. Viewing motivational processes in the perspective of complexity will undoubtedly be a useful way to understand and eventually control the phenomenon of corruption. The motivators energize behavior and relate the individual to the context[18] . At this level, the conditions of the context more related to corruption are the existence of connectors[19], a culture of low valuation of ethics, control failures of leaders, practices of non-transparency.

The combination of motivational factors with those conditions of context is a strong propelling force for corruption behaviors. It is therefore one of the components of our interpretative model.

THE ORGANIZATIONAL LEVEL

Many corruption behaviors happen within specific organizational boundaries. They are clearly influenced by cultural standards and the climate in the organization, which act as enabling conditions or even as direct causes.

In this field, we can point out as direct causes individual and group interests, including the motivation to take advantage over other people. The existence of backroom games and not transparent conditions, control failures, weak ethical culture and excessive inter-organizational competition to win customers can be pointed out as strong facilitative conditions for corruption.

THE SOCIOPOLITICAL LEVEL

The sociopolitical field has great complexity, as it integrates diversified sectors, including the above mentioned three levels. Consequently, in this field it becomes most difficult to

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[17] Klitgaard, R.E. A corrupção sobre controle.Rio de Janeiro: Jorge Zahar, 1994.
[18] Parreira, A. and Lorga Da Silva, A. (2014). A Study of an Interval Scale for a Motivation Test. International SMTDA Conference, Lisbon, June 2014.
[19] Hugo Alconada Mon, Tempo na posição de poder como fator de corrupção. Entrevista à Folha de S. Paulo, 15.02.2016.

distinguish causal factors from conditions that facilitate corruption. As causal factors, one can mention:

- Existence of an advantage seeking culture with low valuation of ethics and service;

- Existence of a network of connectors, boosting corruption procedures[20];

- Existence of actors in leading position easily motivated for corrupt behavior;

- Motivational weakness of the concept of common good[21].

In this area, the enabling conditions include habits and non-transparent practices in everyday life; failure of anticorruption barriers and of regulatory and corrective institutions, which foster the feeling of impunity.

This simple enumeration show how enormous the problem is and how troublesome its resolution may appear. But the action on these causes and conditions is the true way to build a society where corrupt behavior be reduced to a minimum tolerable[22].

THE EFFECTS OF CORRUPTION

After the causes and conditions, the consequences and effects of corruption. We could focus only on negative effects, but complex reasoning requires a broader view, which doesn't ignore the positive effects attributed to corruption. Brei[23] (1996) draws attention to the functionalist position, for which the results of corruption are not just bad; sometimes they are positive for the public interest, because certain practices, such as nepotism, theft, bribery, may even contribute to the political development. "They can be a stimulus to the development process, not constituting irreparable damage, and it is therefore acceptable that they perform useful functions for society at a given historical moment ". In an extreme vision. corruption can even be seen as a way to improve the quality of functionalism, the salary supplement that provides and helps retain the most efficient [24].

But this perspective, corruption being a way of overcoming negativities of a ankylosed system, invites us to ask about other ways more positive to overcome those negativities. One

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[20] Ibid.

[21] Covey, F. Liderança Baseada em Princípios. Rio de Janeiro: Campus (2002).

[22] The *minimum tolerable* concept is an alternative to *zero corruption*. The formula of zero corruption would involve a complete control of its causes and conditions, only possible with total transparency and motivational plenum, not verified in our societies.

[23] Brei, Z.A. A corrupção: causas, consequências e soluções para o problema. RAP Rio de Janeiro, pp.103-115 (1996)

[24] Ibid. p.105-106

can't forget that this possible positive contribution is submerged by a whole spate of distinctly deleterious effects.

After the UK's Anti-Corruption Plan if left unchecked, corruption damages communities and undermines the integrity of both public and private institutions; it undermines the integrity of parliament and the democratic process; it damages the UK's reputation for clean business[25].

Brei (1996) also accentuates this corrosion of the political system and trust in it, leading to the decay of the state and civil society by encouraging violence, undermining political decisions, and exporting corrupt behavior to other governmental institutions.

According to UK Anticorruption Plan, corruption allows criminals to circumvent border controls and facilitates the illegal traffic of goods, people and money; it can provide organized criminals with new opportunities for accessing the legitimate economy; it unnecessarily creates extra costs[26] and undermines our ability to promote sustainable growth[27].

Pellegrini and Gerlaugh (2004) found that 'one standard deviation increase in the corruption index is associated with a decrease in investments of 2.46 percentage points, which in return decreases economic growth by 0.34 per cent per year; and Rock and Bonnett (2004) also observed that corruption adversely affects growth, through the reduction of investment.

Scholars and citizens concerned about the quality of life of the societies in which they live can't remain insensitive to these effects: the search for measures to reduce the level of corruption become imperative, particularly in countries where it is widespread.

MEASURES OF CONTROL

Andrade (2013) draws attention to the fact that the newspapers are full of demonstrations of discontent, against the corruption in Brazil. The population in general, does not mince words to disqualify the corrupt; however, this anger and social revolt are clearly insufficient, if restricted to this.

If it is true that "when a population does not share the political life of their community, this is the first openings to the advent of corruption "[28], then a solution is to increase the level of citizen participation : a popular participation that allows for continuous monitoring of public

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[25] Rt Hon Matthew Hancock and Karen Bradley UK Anticorruption Plan. Available at www.gov.uk. , 2014 p.18-19.
[26] Brei, Z.A. A corrupção: causas, consequências e soluções para o problema. RAP Rio de Janeiro, (1996)
[27] Rt Hon Matthew Hancock and Karen Bradley UK Anticorruption Plan. Available at www.gov.uk., 2014. p.19.
[28] Martins, J. A. (2008) .Corrupção. São Paulo: Globo, p.116.

institutions, step by step debugging the ideas of those who intend to come to power and reducing connivance[29].

Huntington (1970 , quoted in Brei, 1996) had already proposed this, when he said that to reduce corruption, the output is organizing the participation, as they are guided by antagonistic principles in themselves. Leff (1970), also quoted in Brei , stresses that eliminating corruption requires the emergence of new power centers outside the bureaucracy; and Echenburg (1970, quoted in BREI, 1996), suggests that more than creating legal rules, what matters is the exemplary behavior of the leaders and a strict code of supervision effectively implemented.

The UK Anti-Corruption Plan specifically proposes an entire panoply of measures, all around the concepts of transparency and punishment of deviations , as preventive and corrective processes:

- Prison staff training, to ensure that corruption, where suspected, is identified, investigated and eliminated;
- counter-corruption training for the public sector;
- lobbyists to disclose their clients on a publicly available register and to declare   whether or not they subscribe to a code of conduct, elaborated for dealing with lobbyists;
- a guide to the rules relating to the conduct of Members in the House of Commons.
- to declare the value of gifts that are required to be registered;
- disciplinary sanctions for misconduct;
- the exclusion of suppliers who have been convicted of various offences, including fraud, bribery and corruption.

Andrade[30] recommends to set aside the belief that the issue of standards and the creation of severe penalties will put an end to corruption: editing a remarkable amount of laws does not contribute effectively to ending the problem. We should rather to fight for a drastic transformation of society, in its cultural aspect, as well as for the reform of habits and behaviors now intrinsic to our intellectual formation. It is necessary that corrupts be convinced that longer are accepted by society, that condition makes them *personae non gratae*.

After this review of the key points relating to corruption, it is time to put the questions that move this empirical research.

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[29] Xavier De Andrade, T. Entendendo a corrupção no Brasil, Portal Boletim Jurídico   Ano XV Número 1327 Uberaba/MG, Brasil, 2013 (acessed at 24.02.2016), p.13
[30] Xavier De Andrade, T. Entendendo a corrupção no Brasil, Portal Boletim Jurídico   Ano XV Número 1327 Uberaba/MG, Brasil, 2013 (acessed at 24.02.2016), p.13.

THE EMPIRICAL RESEARCH

The research is a field study, mainly descriptive and correlational, aiming to obtain answers about corruption from three types of professionals (Professors, Lawyers, Managers, from Brazil and Portugal) traditionally concerned with this social phenomenon.

The study aims to answer the following questions:

- To what extent the features of a knowledge society effectively act as barriers to corruption?
- What behaviors are included by people in the construct corruption, and at what level?
- What behaviors compose the concept of transparency, considered one of the more effective responses to reduce the level of corruption?

HYPOTHESES

1. The characteristics of knowledge societies seem to be effective barriers against corruption
2. The transparency in processes and leaders' behavior is perceived as powerful means of reducing corruption.
3. Corruption behaviors are correctly perceived by people, even if some professions lead to a more accurate perception.

THE SAMPLE

The sample is composed by 71 individuals as described in Tables 2, 3 and 4).

Table 2. Age of respondents

	Frequency	Percentage
<30	3	4,2
31-40	19	26,8
41-50	23	32,4
51-60	12	16,9
>60	14	19,7
Total	71	100,0

Table 3. Professional activity of respondents

	Frequency	Percentage
Professor	30	42,3
Manager	19	26,8
Lawyer	16	22,5
Other	6	8,5
Total	71	100,0

Table 4. Respondents by country

Country	Frequency	Percentage
Portugal	33	46,5
Brasil	38	53,5
Total	71	100,0

Source: the authors (2016)

INSTRUMENTS

For data collection a survey was conducted in which teachers, managers / entrepreneurs and lawyers were asked to assess the features presented from the point of view of corruption.

The questionnaire integrates three sections:

- The first section proposes a list of unethical behaviors to respondents in order to assess to what extent each of them may be viewed as corruption.
- The second section intends to evaluate to what extent each feature (attributed to a knowledge society) will constitute a barrier against corruption;
- The third section aims to characterize the concept of transparency, referred in official and unofficial texts as a key measure to control corrupt behaviors.

The questionnaire was subject to statistical procedures to determine their validity and reliability, which proved good, as can be seen in table 5.

Table 5. Relilability

Realibility Statistics		
Cronbach Alfa	Cronbach Alpha, based on standardized items	N
,845	,873	32

Source: the authors (2016)

The questionnaire for evaluating items used a Likert scale, transformed into interval scale, on the basis of the numerical value of adverbs. The values of the scale were calculated for the population to which the respondents belong. The theoretical support of this type of scale is presented in Table 6 (it can be found in PARREIRA and LORGA DA SILVA, 2014).

Table 6. Forms of the scale used in the questionnaire

Adverbial scale	Numerical values of the scale	
E - extremely effective	9,78	In second and third part of questionnaire ***effective*** is substituted by ***adequate*** according to the sentence.
M – very effective	8,20	
B – quite enough effective	7,50	
Md – medially effective	5,31	
P – little effective	3,12	
N – not at all effective	0,26	

Source: Parreira and Lorga da Silva[31].

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[31] Parreira, A. and Lorga Da Silva, A. (2014). A Study of an Interval Scale for a Motivation Test. International SMTDA Conference, Lisbon, June 2014.

THE RESULTS

DEFINING CORRUPTION

The concept of corruption is ambiguous for many people, as shown by the values of table 5: two behaviors ethically disapproved were put by the respondents out of the concept of corruption; but other behaviors listed were not so clear to respondents:

- Giving false information to someone to take advantage is mixed with the concept of corruption;

- Falsifying data was scored very close to the scores of those which define corruption;

- Using the company's products without declaring (very similar to theft) still deserves a high value as corrupt behavior.

Table 7. Dimensions of corruption

1. Robbery or theft of an object	3,842
2. Robbing someone with the threat of a gun	3,578
3. Using a company's products without declaring its use	5,910
4. Giving false information to someone to take advantage over him in a business	6,860
5. Falsify data in order to be admitted into an institution	7,256
6. Being in a contest and influence someone from the institution to improperly put someone ahead of other competitors	8,538
7. Using his position to obtain payment from a competitor in a process, offering to favor him	9,158
8. Use your position to save part of the payments made by a customer to your company, without the customer knowing it	8,272
9. Receive money from a service provider ensuring that it gets the business	9,377
10. Propose payment to an employee of a potential client to gain secretly a position of advantage over other competitors	9,429
11. Use your social position to secretly influence business and make gains from this	9,409
12. Use privileged knowledge gained by their social position, to make a deal to gain a profit that would be impossible without this secret knowledge	8,361
13. Taking into account your answers, do you feel motivated to support movements that fight against the phenomenon of corruption?	8,380

Source: the authors (2017)

The table 7 shows that the core of the concept includes eight core dimensions (in bold), which combine three ideas: to get undue advantage; damaging others or the society; it is a relational act, a combination of wills. To aggregate wills and motivate is a leaders' role; and leaders can involve themselves with connectors to adopt corrupt practices. So, acting on the

communication processes of these networks and on the motivational patterns emerging in social contexts is a way to tackle corrupt behaviors.

On this theme there are almost no differences between respondents: the ones existing are shown in tables 8, 9 and 10 below.

Table 8 – Difference between evaluations by professors and managers

	Profession	N	Mean	SD	Sig. 2-tailed
Falsify data in order to be admitted into an institution	Professor	23	6,701	3,30246	
	Manager	11	8,680	1,77889	0,03

Table 9. Difference between evaluations by professors and lawyers

	profession	N	Mean	SD	Sig. 2-tailed
Robbery,theft	1,00	23	4,1961	3,38343	
	3,00	13	1,9823	2,74412	0,041
Assault with weapon	1,00	23	3,9105	3,30376	
	3,00	13	1,7692	3,05538	0,060

Table 10. Difference between evaluations by managers and lawyers

	profiss	N	Média	SD	(Sig. 2-tailed)
Falsify data in order to be admitted into an institution	2,00	11	8,6800	1,7788	
	3,00	13	6,1846	3,5599	0,04

Source: the authors (2017)

KNOWLEDGE SOCIETIES AND CORRUPTION

The results on this topic are shown in table 11 and arouse some interesting considerations, explained after it.

First, for the respondents a knowledge society is strongly involved in free information flow, easy access to knowledge, supported by the appropriate tools, decisions and action transparency, practices guided by a scientific grounded knowledge. Second, the results show that the respondents think that these characteristics are effective barriers against corruption.

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Table 11. Features of a knowledge society as barriers anticorruption

Features of a knowledge society (from a previous study, Parreira et al. 2015)	Intensity as an anticorruption barrier
1. A society that invests in the free flow of information	7,956
2. A society committed to sustainable practices in all its areas	7,654
3. A society whose leaders are motivated to take decisions which do not miss any important factor, struggling to integrate them all	8,234
4. A society in which the transparency is the usual practice of government and social and economic leaders	8,850
5. A society in which all citizens strongly value ethical behavior and social responsibility	9,161
6. A society in which inequality will be much lower than currently is	7,816
7. A society with an extremely easy access to knowledge by means of available information tools	8,356
8. A society whose behavior patterns are not compatible with corrupt practices	8,289

Source: the authors (2017)

In general, there are no significant differences in respondents evaluations, neither by gender, nor by schooling or profession. Significant differences appear only in some items (tables 12, 13, 14) what is in accordance with hypothesis 3:

Table 12. Significant differences between professors' and lawyers' evaluations of barriers against corruption

Item	Profession	N	Mean	(Sig. 2-tailed)
A society committed to sustainable practices	Lawyers	13	**8,773**	
	Professors	23	7,132	0,006
Transparency:	Lawyers	13	**9,361**	
	Professors	23	8,423	0,024
Ethical behavior and social responsibility:	Lawyers	13	**9,483**	
	Professors	23	8,914	0.027
Inequality much lower than today	Lawyers	13	**8,599**	
	Professors	23	7,675	0,028

Source: the authors (2017)

Table 13. Significant differences between Portuguese and brazilian evaluations

	Country	N	Mean	(Sig. 2-tailed)
Free flow of information	Portuguese	19	7,207	
	Brazilian	34	**8,501**	0,017
Free access to knowledge, guidance by knowledge	Portuguese	19	7,791	
	Brazilian	34	**8,869**	0,012

Table 14. Significant differences between male and female evaluations

	Gender	N	Mean	(Sig. 2-tailed)
Free access to knowledge	Women	29	8,105	
	Men	23	**9,002**	0,03

Source: the authors (2017)

Table 15 shows the measures against corruption directly evaluated in this study. Taken together, they create a global picture of a society which refuses corrupt behavior patterns (at the level of 8,465).

Table 15. Measures directly against corruption

9. Teaching codes of conduct, to prevent the best-known corruption practices	**7,663**
10. From basic school teaching to assume attitudes of loyalty, transparency and accountability for their actions	**9,178**
11. To prevent the practice of the activities related to the act of corruption, if proved, over a long period	**8,465**

Source: the authors (2017)

A provisional conclusion is that the walk to a knowledge society with the characteristics attributed by respondents is a quite effective means to dramatically reduce the levels of corruption. And even if walking to such a society continues under scrutiny, it is already quite clear in socioeducational terms[32]. So, walking to knowledge societies seems a promising way to avoid corruption.

TRANSPARENCY

The table 16 transmits the content of transparency to respondents, who had already attributed to it a high value as a barrier against corruption (8,836).

Table 16. Defining Transparency

1. Disclosure of the accounts of institutions	**9,049**
2. Full disclosure of the contest criteria, in public acquisition of services	**8,939**
3. Knowledge of who decides in a business	**8,439**
4. Disclosure of financial assets linked to the tender, when the purchase of services is object of tender	**8,509**
5. Disclosure the results of proposals evaluation, showing their relation to the criteria used	**8,766**
6. Disclosure of all competing bids in tenders to buy products or services	**8,915**
7. Full information about the handling of existing complaints	**8,529**
8. Full information about project execution, control measures and deviation correction	**8,925**
9. Full information about the total final results of the project after its Completion	**8,862**

Source: the authors (2016)

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[32] Marujo, M., Parreira, A., Lorga Da Silva, A., and Vinícius Costa, M. Educação para a sociedade do conhecimento: dois modelos em comparação. Proceedings of the International Conference on Comparative Education. Buenos Aires, June, 24-26, 2015.

The values are all very clear and very high, giving us a transparency construct with nine dimensions, but mostly seven, those with a score over 8,541. The construct seems a rich, precise and unambiguous one.

The effective commitment to transparency is undoubtedly a way to enter in, if we want to lower the level of corruption in society.

Table 12. Significant differences between professors' and lawyers' evaluations of transparency

Item	Profession	N	Mean	(Sig. 2-tailed)
To know who decides	Lawyers	13	**9,240**	
	Professors	23	8,155	0,022
Criteria disclosure:	Lawyers	13	**9,361**	
	Professors	23	8,670	0,032
Proposals disclosure	Lawyers	13	**9,537**	
	Professors	23	8,632	0,003
Proposal of behavior codes	Lawyers	13	**9,308**	
	Professors	23	8,689	0,047

Source: the authors (2017)

And the fact that presently many politicians have already subscribed the promotion of transparency processes in municipal management is somehow exciting[33].

CONCLUSIONS AND FUTURE WORK

The evaluation of a knowledge society by respondents enlightened it as a barrier against corruption, mainly to the following characteristics (results according to hypothesis 1):

- *an extremely easy access to various types of knowledge* (scored 8,351);

- *the transparency of actions and decisions is the usual practice of leaders*
  (scored 8,836);

- *citizens will give great value to ethical behavior and social responsibility*
  (scored 9,124);

- *leaders motivated to take decisions which do not miss any important factor*
  (scored 8,615).

This assessment enhances the importance of developing in the society a culture promoting the transparency of processes; the scientifically based knowledge; a global ethical behavior and social responsibility; the search for leaders prepared and motivated to tailor their

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[33] Staroscky, E. A., Nunes, G. S.F., Lyrio, M.V.L., Lunkes, R. J. A Transparência dos Portais Municipais sob a Perspectiva da Legislação Brasileira: o caso de prefeituras em Santa Catarina. Reuna, v.19, n.1, p.29-52, Belo Horizonte - MG, Brasil., 2014.

decisions and actions to the complexity of situations and problems: leaders who will lead the society and its organizations on the basis of information, not on basis of authority and power games.

Data on transparency are also illuminating and point to a converging mouvement:

- Its assessment as a barrier against corruption is above 8,34 in all dimensions (table 8);
- The disclosure of all aspects related to political and economic decisions appears as decisive in transparency processes (which confirms hypothesis 2).

Moreover, the qualitative observations made by the respondents state that the disclosure should be made in those media to which most citizens have access. And they point that even the punishments imposed on proven acts of corruption must be disclosed, in order to eliminate the feeling of impunity associated to those acts.

The commitment to increase the level of transparency in all processes and behaviors of society seems an unquestionable way against corruption. To follow it is essential; but the political, economic and cultural leaders of society must be motivated to do so, long enough to consolidate this new attitude against corruption.

A concept that was not included in this study but is being investigated in the larger project to which this study belongs is the concept of trust in relations and institutions (FINURAS, 2013): when institutional leaders behave in a way that increases their credibility and citizen's trust, this opens a complementary way to develop a real culture of transparency. It is crucial that their knowledge be at the level of complexity required by situations; that flourishes in society a rich flow of information and wide access to it; that a culture of transparency, institutional trust and appreciation of ethics spreads in society; and that leaders be effectively not only aware of the real complexity of problems but also be motivated to adjust their decisions and practices to it. The university can play an important role in fostering these behavior patterns: it was the university which expanded the idea that scientific knowledge is the most effective way to resolve every problem (Baker, 2014), a grounding idea of what now can be named knowledge societies, where research is a foundational activity (Kumpikaité, 2007). Granting its unique role, the university will give a major contribution to bring about societies extensively free of corruption patterns.

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ŽINIŲ VISUOMENĖ KAIP KLIŪTIS KORUPCIJAI: TRIJŲ SKIRTINGŲ AKADEMINIŲ GRUPIŲ VERTINIMAS

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S a n t r a u k a

Korupcijos fenomenas įgavo tęstinį dėmesį socialinių mokslų ir elgesio tyrinėtojų atliekamuose tyrimuose. Manoma, kad šis susidomėjimas neabejotinai susijęs su gero valdymo ir sveikos ekonomikos santykiu. Teigiama, kad esant dideliam korupcinio elgesio padidėjimui, kyla ir susidomėjimas ja.

Modernios visuomenės progresas ateities visuomenės link gali susidėti iš kelių trajektorijų, kurių centrinės ašys yra skirtingi matymai, kaip organizuoti materijos, energijos ir informacijos šaltinius šios visuomenės naudai. Vienas iš jų yra išplėtotas informacijos technologijų ir mokslo žinių naudojimas visose gyvenimo srityse, daugiausiai ekonomikoje ir socialiniuose procesuose. Pagrįsta tikėtis, kad tam tikrų charakteristikų rinkinys paveiks visuomenės elgesio modelį, socioekonomiką ir šios visuomenės požiūrį į politiką.

Šio straipsnio tikslas yra neatsiejamas nuo charakteristikų, susijusių su neetiško elgesio pašalinimo įvertinimu tarpasmeninių ir socialinių santykių požiūriu. Ypač atkreiptinas dėmesys į korupcijos procesus ekonomikoje ir politikoje. Susirūpinimas politinių, ekonominių ir socialinių sprendimų skaidrumu jaučiamas ne tik mokslo, religijos ir kultūros institucijose, bet pradeda kelti įtarimų ir politikoje.

Šiuo straipsniu siekiama suprasti, koks mastas ateities žinių visuomenės ypatybių (bruožų) gali sudaryti kliūtis korupciniam elgesiui. Įsipareigojimas padidinti skaidrumo lygį visuose gyvenimo procesuose bei to skaidrumo supratimą visuomenėje yra neginčijamas būdas kovoti su korupcija. Būtina siekti, kad įvairių sričių visuomenės lyderiai taip pat stiprintų naują požiūrį į skaidrumą ir būtų motyvuoti atitinkamai elgtis.

Pagrindinės sąvokos korupcija, žinių visuomenė, etinės savybės, skaidrumas, socialinis elgesys.

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