

Combating corruption the soft way

Citation for published version (APA):

Jongen, H. J. E. M. (2017). *Combating corruption the soft way: the authority of peer reviews in the global fight against graft*. [Doctoral Thesis, Maastricht University]. Datawyse / Universitaire Pers Maastricht. <https://doi.org/10.26481/dis.20170915hj>

Document status and date:

Published: 01/01/2017

DOI:

[10.26481/dis.20170915hj](https://doi.org/10.26481/dis.20170915hj)

Document Version:

Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

Please check the document version of this publication:

- A submitted manuscript is the version of the article upon submission and before peer-review. There can be important differences between the submitted version and the official published version of record. People interested in the research are advised to contact the author for the final version of the publication, or visit the DOI to the publisher's website.
- The final author version and the galley proof are versions of the publication after peer review.
- The final published version features the final layout of the paper including the volume, issue and page numbers.

[Link to publication](#)

General rights

Copyright and moral rights for the publications made accessible in the public portal are retained by the authors and/or other copyright owners and it is a condition of accessing publications that users recognise and abide by the legal requirements associated with these rights.

- Users may download and print one copy of any publication from the public portal for the purpose of private study or research.
- You may not further distribute the material or use it for any profit-making activity or commercial gain
- You may freely distribute the URL identifying the publication in the public portal.

If the publication is distributed under the terms of Article 25fa of the Dutch Copyright Act, indicated by the "Taverne" license above, please follow below link for the End User Agreement:

www.umlib.nl/taverne-license

Take down policy

If you believe that this document breaches copyright please contact us at:

repository@maastrichtuniversity.nl

providing details and we will investigate your claim.

STELLINGEN

behorend bij het proefschrift

COMBATING CORRUPTION THE SOFT WAY

The Authority of Peer Reviews in the Global Fight against Graft

Hortense Jongen

1. Peer review amongst states should not be discarded as an insignificant instrument for monitoring states' compliance with international norms. When appropriately devised and carried out, it can even present several advantages over more binding forms of agreement, such as its flexibility and the opportunities it offers for mutual learning.
2. Authority is in the eye of the beholder. A sociological and relational understanding of authority is often more suitable for studying global governance actors and institutions than a formal-legal conception of authority.
3. Though all peer reviews are soft-governance instruments and share a common set of attributes, they hold authority to varying degrees. Some peer reviews are perceived as more worthwhile and effective instruments than others.
4. Various organisational, institutional, and policy-specific factors affect the authority of peer reviews and help to explain differences amongst them.
5. Peer review is based on a system of equals. If some of the peers have more influence in the peer review than others, this might have ambivalent effects on the authority of the instrument. The peer review might be better able to deliver concrete results, but might also compromise on equal treatment and the consistent application of rules.
6. Answering the research question should be prioritised over adhering to the forced distinction between different research paradigms and their corresponding research methods. The pragmatism inherent to mixed-methods research represents a strength rather than a weakness.
7. The question of to what extent states comply with international law is an important one. However, a focus on compliance alone is inadequate to assess the significance of monitoring instruments. Moreover, such a focus might lead to a systematic under- or over-estimation of these instruments.
8. Authority transcends the constructivist-rationalist divide on compliance with international norms, as it speaks to both a logic of appropriateness and a logic of consequences
9. In light of growing monitoring fatigue in some national administrations, caution needs to be taken that the instrument of peer review does not fall victim to its own success. To prevent reviewing fatigue, a duplication of efforts or overlap in review exercises should be avoided. Rather than establishing new peer reviews, options should be explored to expand the scope and membership of existing ones.
10. Nowadays authority no longer comes only as male, white, and in a suit, but can at times wear a colourful dress.