

# Media Coverage of Corruption in Latin America

Salvatore F. Solimano - Professor Manuel Balán

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## Research Question

Is corruption covered differently under Left and Right-wing governments?

## Methods

Four Latin American countries were chosen: **Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, and Peru.**

Two corruption cases were chosen in each country, one happening under a Left-wing government, the other under a Right-wing one.

12 to 15 media articles were chosen per case, particular attention was given to the reach, status, and stance of the outlet.

Articles were analyzed following six criteria.

## The Cases

### Argentina

L: Cristina F. de Kirchner

Caso Hotesur

R: Mauricio Macri

Panama Papers



### Brazil



L: Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva  
Mensalão scandal

R: Michel Temer  
Operation Car Wash



### Mexico

L: Andrés M. L. Obrador

Public University Scandal

R: Enrique Peña Nieto

Conflict of Interest



### Peru



L: Ollanta Humala  
Nadine Heredia Agendas

R: Pedro Pablo Kuczynski  
Operation Car Wash



## Findings

1. There were no salient differences in the likelihood that **past campaign promises or ideology** be mentioned in the coverage.
2. Where media coverage made **links to other (past or current) corruption cases**, it was far more likely to be done under a **Left-wing** government.
3. When the **tone** of the coverage was **unfavourable** to the President, it was far more likely to be so under a **Left-wing** government.
4. When done, **cross-examination (fact-checking)** of the President's statements was more severe under **Left-Wing** governments.
5. There were **no salient differences** in the likelihood that articles portray an **unfavourable picture** of the President, *except for peru.*

## Conclusions

Where editorial differences arise, **it is more likely that corruption will be treated more harshly under Left-wing governments.** Note, this was a qualitative analysis, quantitative methods may result useful should more countries, cases, and articles be added to our sample. This would render more concrete, sharpened

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