

*How Does Anti-Corruption Information Affect Public Perceptions of Corruption in China?**

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Abstract

Governments must fight corruption to maintain legitimacy. However, anti-corruption campaigns do not necessarily convince citizens that corruption is less prevalent. This study analyzes how variations in the content of anti-corruption information reported in the media affect perceptions of corruption. We conduct a survey experiment in China and find that information about corruption cases, which is often sensational and thus disseminates rapidly, may have a negative impact on public perceptions of corruption by exposing more corruption. By contrast, information on routine anti-corruption work, which is less dramatic, may positively influence perceptions of corruption. This study advances our understanding of corruption perceptions and has practical implications for controlling and preventing the practice.

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* The authors gratefully acknowledge the support of the National Natural Science Foundation of China (Disciplining Corruption and Corruption Perception: Causal Inference and Mechanism Analysis, No.71704193) and the National Social Science Youth Project (Impact and Mechanism of Government Anti-Corruption Efforts on Public Perceptions of Corruption, No. 18CGL037).