

THE POLITICS OF BUREAUCRATIC CORRUPTION IN POST-TRANSITIONAL EASTERN EUROPE

Using a mix of ethnographic, survey, and comparative-historical methodologies, this book offers an unprecedented insight into the corruption economies of Ukrainian and Belarusian universities, hospitals, and secondary schools. Its detailed analysis suggests that political turnover in hybrid political regimes has a strong impact on petty economic crime in service-provision bureaucracies. Theoretically, the book rejects the dominant paradigm that attributes corruption to the allegedly ongoing political transition. Instead, it develops a more nuanced approach that appreciates the complexity of corruption economies in non-Western societies, embraces the local meanings and functions of corruption, and recognizes the stability of new post-transitional regimes in Eastern Europe and beyond. This book offers a critical look at the social costs of transparency, develops a blueprint for a “sociology of corruption,” and offers concrete and feasible policy recommendations.

MARINA ZALIZNAYA is Assistant Professor of Sociology at the University of Iowa. Born and raised in Crimea, Ukraine (now Russia), she received her MA in Sociology from the University of Wisconsin and her PhD in Sociology from Northwestern University. Her research on informal economies, corruption, and political transformations in non-democratic societies has been supported by multiple grants, including from the Open Society Institute, the National Science Foundation, and the U.S. Department of Defense. Her work has also been featured in a number of key sociology and interdisciplinary journals.

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*To Tommy, Valentina, and Lex
Like everything else I do, this book is for you.*

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