

Abstract

In this work, we empirically analyze how do the people in Mexico City perceive the social and institutional context that surround them, how do they represent that context in specific situations, and how such perceptions and representations are elements that may very well predispose individuals —and the collectivity— to commit a corrupt action or behavior. Through a qualitative methodology based on focus groups we found some elements that lead us to think that perceptions of corruption and the way people represent themselves and the public institutions within corruption situations may be one important cause of corruption itself, and that therefore, the social construction of reality, i.e. the way the people share ideas on how they build and explain their world, plays a fundamental role as one cause of corruption.