Glossary

Adat (North Caucasus, Russia): system of Chechen customary laws and norms practised in the North Caucasus among ethnic Vainakh and the diaspora.
Agashka (Kazakhstan): an influential figure with strong personal connections; a patron.
Aidagara (Japan): social networks in Japan.
Alga aploksnē (Latvia): lit. ‘salary in an envelope’, arrangement whereby an employee receives the legal minimum salary officially, and the remainder in cash, enabling the employer to avoid social insurance contributions.
Allegados (Chile): poor families who live in a single room in a relative’s house without paying rent.
Amici, amigos (Mediterranean and Latin America): social actors involved in a relationship of instrumental friendship.
Aploksne/aploksnīte (Latvia): lit. ‘envelope’, unofficial payments made to doctors and (less frequently) public officials for services they are required to provide by law.
Artistic repossession (general – totalitarian regimes): artists ‘reclaiming’ control over their work in totalitarian regimes by manipulating the restrictions imposed on them by the state.
Astroturfing (USA, UK): the attempt to create an impression of widespread grassroots support for a policy, individual or product, where little such support exists.
Avos’ (Russia): a ‘lackadaisical’ attitude to chance in the world, used in both economic and non-economic contexts.
Azganvan popokhutyun (Armenian diaspora): surname change by ethnic Armenians living in Georgia, usually for reasons of ethnic identity.
Baksheesh (Middle East, North Africa and sub-continental Asia): facilitation payment made to officials, etc.
Bapakism (Indonesia): Javanese culture of patriarchy; refers to being the head of a family and/or head of a formal or informal organisation.
Barakholka (Kazakhstan): pejorative term for an outdoor, open-air flea market where second-hand goods are bought and sold.
Barone universitario (Italy): literally ‘barons’, academics holding powerful positions who influence decisions in universities, especially with regard to academic appointments.
Benāmi (India): in Hindu law, a transaction or property made or held under a fictitious name or that of a third party, who acts as a ‘front’ owner on behalf of the real owner.
Biombo (Costa Rica): an illegal payment made to a medical professional in exchange for providing preferential treatment to a patient or a patient’s family within the state-funded health care system.
Biržha (Georgia): group of male teenagers or young men who meet regularly in open spaces (squares, courtyards, street corners).
Bitcoin (general): peer-to-peer electronic currency system.
Blat (Romania): fee-dodging, match-fixing, illicit activity.
Blat (Russia and former Soviet Union): getting things done through personal contacts, ‘pulling strings’ or the exchange of favours.
Boda-boda taxis (Uganda): informal motorcycle taxis.
Brodiazhnichestvo (Russia): term for vagrancy used to legislate against persons engaging in dissent, forbidden trades, private entrepreneurial activity or speculation in the Soviet Union.
Brokerage (general): flow of valued resources from one actor to another via an intermediary.
Budženje (Serbia): jerry-building, cobbling together, jury-rigging or bodging carried out on houses, cars and household and electrical objects.
Bustarella (Italy): lit. ‘little envelope’, euphemism for a bribe.
Caffè sospeso (Naples, Italy): lit. ‘suspended coffee,’ forward paying for a cup of coffee for a future customer.
Campamento (Chile): informal urban settlements which typically lack at least one of the three basic services (electricity, drinking water and sewage system).
Cash for access (UK): British politicians/political parties receiving payment to provide access to influential individuals, usually with the aim of lobbying.
Cash in hand (general): a business taking payment for goods or services by cash, usually for a lower price than other forms of payment, so that the transaction remains ‘off the books’ and thus avoids taxes.
**Character assassination** (general): deliberate and sustained effort to damage the reputation or credibility of an individual.

**Chelnoki** (Russia and former Soviet Union): small traders who resell goods purchased abroad, normally in China.

**Chernukha** (Russia): use of the public media instrumentally in order to damage an opponent’s reputation.

**Chir** (Chechnya, Ingushetia): blood feud/blood revenge.

**Chợ cốc** (Vietnam): lit. ‘toad markets’; informal markets in socialist Vietnam.

**Chorizo** (Latin America): lit. ‘sausage’, euphemism for corruption/corrupt acts by government officials.

**Coima** (Argentina): euphemism for a petty bribe.

**Compadrazgo** (Chile): system of exchanges of favours within an ideology of friendship.

**Cyberattacks by semi state actors** (general): attacks on political opponents using semi-state actors to exploit computer systems and disrupt data, hosts or networks.

**Dacha** (Russia): out-of-town dwelling and plot of land for intermittent use by urbanites.

**Dalali** (India): brokerage.

**Dangou/Dango** (Japan): bid-fixing in supposedly competitive tenders.

**Dash** (Nigeria and other West African countries): ubiquitous tip that can also serve as a facilitation payment to a public servant.

**Deryban** (Ukraine and Russia): the expropriation and informal sharing of state property among private actors.

**Dirt book** (UK): record of compromising information on Members of Parliament (MPs) held by party whips to ensure voting discipline.

**Dizelaši** (Serbia): 1990s’ youth subculture also involved in fuel smuggling resulting from the wartime fuel shortage.

**Dzhinsa** (Russia): media article or report, often paid, which is staged or created on purpose in order to promote a certain idea, individual or company.

**Egunje** (Nigeria): involuntary ‘gift’ extorted from the giver by a corrupt official.

**Esusu** (Nigeria): informal community-based savings scheme.

**Externe Personen** (Germany): private sector individuals working in the German civil service.

**Fakelaki** (Greece): infamous envelopes of money given for such diverse things as hospital treatment, university degrees and at baptisms and weddings.
Favela (Brazil): slum in urban Brazil.
Fimi media (Croatia): siphoning off state funds, embezzlement.
Flipping (UK): British Members of Parliament (MPs) manipulating the classification of their ‘second home’ to maximise expenses claims.
Futbolna frakcia (Bulgaria): gangs of football supporters that have their own symbols, rituals, etc.
Gap (Uzbekistan): informal get-togethers over dinner by groups of people, usually of the same age, enabling them to socialise and share information, and sometimes also operating a rotating savings fund.
Gestión (Mexico): negotiating access to public goods or services in a private manner.
Goudui and yingchou (China): ways entrepreneurs form informal ties with state officials – through banqueting, karaoke, brothels, etc.
Graffiti (general): street art, unsolicited markings on property not owned by oneself, usually in a public space.
Guanxi (China): personal or social connections to get things done, acquire a scarce commodity, or gain access to an opportunity.
Hacktivism (general): the commission of computer crimes to further political or social ends.
Hawala (Middle East, India and Pakistan): informal system of money exchange prevalent throughout South Asia and the Middle East.
Hongbao (China): handing over informal payments disguised as a gift.
Hyvä Veli (Finland): interpersonal network associated with favouritism.
Informal mining (general): ‘off-the-books’ mining around the world.
Inmaek (South Korea): lit. ‘people entangled like a vine’, network of social ties and relationships developed in the course of one’s life.
Insider trading (general): trading of shares, bonds, etc. by individuals with access to non-public information about companies related to the sale.
Jaan-pehchaan (India): facilitation of business by exchange of favours.
Jangmadang (North Korea): unofficial markets in North Korea, from physical markets with small-time traders to de facto private businesses run by state officials, operating under the guise and licences of state-socialism.
Janteloven/Jantelagen (Scandinavia): set of norms embodied in informal practices that confer negative attitudes towards individuality, individual self-expression and measures of success.
Jeitinho (Brazil): seeking personal favours by cajoling, sweet-talking and rule-bending to solve problems.
**Jinmyaku** (Japan): personal connections of vital importance in business, politics and aspects of day-to-day life.

**Jugaad** (India): ways of solving problems with limited resources or by getting a round formal constraints.

**Kalym** (Russia): moonlighting and/or using company tools or vehicles to undertake private work.

**Kanonieri qurdebi** (Georgia): ‘thieves-in-law’, professional criminals who have elite status in the organised crime environment.

**Kastom** (Solomon Islands and Melanesia): the assertion of traditional values and cultural practices in a modern context.

**Keiretsu** (Japan): Japanese system of corporate governance in which firms are interlinked.

**Kkokkeynaya diplomatiya** (Russia): utilising amateur ice hockey for the development of personal, business and government relationships.

**Klüngel** (Cologne, Germany): the exchange of favours among friends and acquaintances in political and business settings in Cologne.

**Kolesiostwo** (Poland): a non-market exchange of favours between friends and colleagues restricted to the professional sphere.

**Kombinacja** (Poland): bending rules to access resources, scheming to earn money and acquire opportunities.

**Kompromat** (Russia): compromising materials used to control or exert power over others.

**Korapsen** (Papua New Guinea): euphemism for corruption in Papua New Guinea, but with distinctive local connotations.

**Kormlenie** (Russian Empire): lit. ‘feeding’, the practice in pre-modern Russia of maintaining local officials at the expense of those they governed.

**Kraken** (The Netherlands): living in – or using otherwise – a dwelling without the consent of its owner.

**Krugovaia poruka** (Russia and Europe): collective responsibility or irresponsibility (cover-up).

**Krysha** (Russia, Ukraine, Belarus): lit. ‘roof’, individuals or organisations providing a range of services, predominantly illicit, ranging from protection and patronage to enforcement of contracts and settlement of disputes.

**Kula** (Tanzania): lit. ‘eating’, gaining access to resources to satisfy needs, often a euphemism for corruption.

**Kumoterstwo** (Poland): mutual exchange of favours, especially for relatives, friends or colleagues.

**Kumstvo** (Montenegro and Balkans): godparenthood; an informal connection based on made-up kinship, used to enhance friendly
relations and useful contacts for parents and improve life chances for the newborn.

Kupona (Kosovo): non-registration of transactions or not printing receipts for the purpose of tax avoidance.

Kurator (Russia, Ukraine): representatives of political power in a corporate setting.

L’argent du carburant (sub-Saharan Africa): a metaphor designating a small sum of money given to customs officials.

Loteria / Lloteria (Albania): private lottery scheme/collective savings scheme.

Mafia Raj (India): criminal power networks.

Magharich’ (Armenia): traditional gift-giving practice in Armenian culture, which in more modern times has also become a euphemism for a bribe.

Magnitizdat (USSR): re-recording and distributing uncensored speeches or music on cassette tapes in the USSR.

Mahallah (Uzbekistan): Islamic local governance groupings; also community-based, informal economic and welfare practices.

Materit’sya (Russia): category of obscene language.

Mateship (Australia): friendship links/loyalty to friends (generally male).

Mita (Gabor Roma, Romania): a multifunctional cash gift among the Gabor Roma.

Mordida (Mexico): lit. ‘to bite’, euphemism for a bribe or backhander.

Mukhayyam (OPT): informal dwelling – refugee camps in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

Nachbarschaftshilfe (Germany and German-speaking countries): lit. ‘neighbourhood watch’ acts of mutual assistance and support in times of crisis usually involving no payment; cover for illegal earnings.

Nash chelovek (Russia): ‘our person’, one of us.

Natsnoboba (Georgia): informal contacts and networks.

No-entry (India): a deed of sale of land, which has been signed by a notary, but without paying tax or being registered by the Land authorities.

Normalnye patsany (Russia): members of urban street gangs.

Obshchak (Russia): informal welfare system in penal and criminal communities.

Okurimono no shûkan (Japan): socially required gift-giving practices in Japanese society.
Old-boy network (UK): members of a network arising from membership of the alumni of a prestigious school or college.

Old corruption (UK): system of sinecures in eighteenth- and nineteenth-century British political system.

Omertà (Italy): unwritten code of keeping silent about crimes or deviant acts, particularly those perpetrated by mafia groups.

Otkat (Russia): diversion of part of the money allocated for a purchase to the person responsible for the purchase; equivalent of the English term ‘kickback’.

Paid favours (UK): acts of one-to-one material help within wider kinship, friendship and neighbourly networks that are reimbursed with money.

Pabrčiti/ Pabirčenje (Serbia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina): gleaning, collection of grains that are left over in the field after harvest.

Padonki (Russia): Slang Internet language used by Russian speakers.

Padrino system/balimbing (Philippines): network of symbiotic relationships between a patron (godfather or godmother) and a client (godchild) within the context of Catholic values and interpersonal bonds.

Pantouflage (France): practice of leaving a civil service position, typically on secondment, to obtain work in the private sector.

Parteibuchwirtschaft’ (Austria and Germany): informal distribution of jobs, material goods and distinctions based on memberships or links to a particular political party.

Pituto (Chile): use of connections to gain some advantage (commonly a job), regardless of merit.

Political machinery (USA): informal means of organising political parties in urban centres in the USA in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Pomochi (Russia): an occasion of collective helping, for free, of a member of a Russian village to complete a large task.

Pork barrelling (USA): in politics, securing preferential funds for a local project paid for out of the national budget.

Potemkin villages (USSR): a façade built to deceive or to hide an undesirable fact or condition.

Pozornost’/d’akovné/Všimné (Slovakia): expressing gratitude for official or unofficial services, typically by means of a small gift or sum of money; can also be a euphemism for a bribe.

Pripiski (USSR): false accounting in order to give the impression that a target has been met.
Psikhushka (USSR and Russian Federation): use of psychiatric services as means of controlling and repressing political opponents.

Pulling strings (UK/USA): using useful connections to secure preferential treatment or access to services/information.

Pyramid schemes (general): operators recruiting unsuspecting investors with promise of high returns.

Quàn jiù (China): toasting people as a means of building relationships.

Raccomandazione (Italy): lit. ‘recommendation’ or ‘reference’, the use of social connections in order to get things done, especially in the context of patron–client relations.

Rad na crno (Serbia): lit. ‘black labour’, payment for jobs that are not officially registered or that are only partially reported to the state authorities.

Reiderstvo (Russia and former Soviet Union): corporate raiding by illegal, semi-legal or unethical means.

Repetitorstvo (Russia and FSU): supplementary private tutoring.

Rod-re (Thailand): mobile street vendors in Bangkok.

Roentgenizdat (USSR): unofficial production of records on discarded X-rays.

Rushyldyq (Kazakhstan): loyalty to and use of extended kinship ties; ‘clanism’.

S vrutka (Bulgaria): lit. ‘with a twist’, practice of bending the rules and pulling strings in order to achieve a goal.

Sadghegrdzelo (Georgia): Georgian word for ‘toast’, which follows a generally uniform, yet not entirely fixed, structure at a festive meal (supra).

Salam credit (Afghanistan): informal agricultural credit system for poppy farmers.

Samizdat (USSR): reproduction of censored and underground publications by hand, passed from reader to reader.

Samogonovarenie (Russia): the distilling of homemade spirits (samogon).

Schwarzwohnen (GDR): lit. ‘black living’, the illegal occupation of accommodation in the German Democratic Republic.

Seilschaft (Germany): lit. ‘rope alliances’, cronyism in career promotion in business and politics.

Shebeen (South Africa): illicit establishment serving alcohol, particularly to black Africans under apartheid.

Shpargalka (Russia): crib sheets to cheat in an examination, often tolerated by examiners.

Silovye gruppirovki (Bulgaria): violent groups involved in violent entrepreneurship or organised crime.
Sitwa (Poland): informal networks within public authorities; ‘amoral familism’.

Skipping (general): urban foraging technique involving collecting objects or food items from the waste.

Small-scale smuggling (general): bending or subverting the rules of goods transportation across national borders.

Smotryashchie/alt. kuratory (Russia, Ukraine): functionaries looking after certain interests (state, oligarchic or regional).

Sociolismo (Cuba): the use of social networks to obtain goods and services in short supply to circumvent state rationing and the inefficiencies of the command economy.

Songbun (North Korea): socio-political classification system, according to which every North Korean citizen is assigned a class status on the basis of their perceived loyalty to the regime.

Songli (China): gift-giving as a form of social exchange and developing network relations.

Sosyudad (Philippines): informal savings and lending scheme.

Spaza (South Africa): small informal grocery shop operated from residential premises in townships.

Squatting (general): informally settling on vacant land or occupying abandoned buildings.

Štela (Bosnia and Hertzegovina): use of contacts/informal connections to obtain goods or services.

Stoyanshik (Georgia): person that watches over cars parked in public spaces; an informal parking attendant/guard.

Stróman (Hungary): someone acting on behalf of someone else, such as a ‘front’ owner or chief executive officer (CEO) of a company.

Švercovanje (Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro): fare-dodging on public transport.

Tal/alt. taljenje, taliti, utaliti, rastaliti (Serbia and countries of former Yugoslavia): an agreement between parties to combine their resources for financial gain, often via illegal means.

Tamozhennye l’goty (Russia): excise privileges for the importation of alcohol and tobacco excise-free, extracted from the state by charitable foundations in the 1990s.

Tandas and Cundinas (Mexico and South-Western USA): rotating credit associations.

Tangentopoli (Italy): system of political corruption in Italy based on kickbacks, which culminated in a judicial investigation leading to the demise of the so-called First Republic.

Tanish-bilish (Uzbekistan): acquaintance networks used to access resources.
Tapş (Azerbaijan): obtaining favours on behalf of others, typically through network connections.

Tazkia (Iraqi Kurdistan): letter of support based on party political membership, which grants members exclusive access to positions within the public service sector.

Telefonnoe pravo (Russia): oral commands, informal influence and pressure of the executive on judiciary.

Torpil (Turkey): use of connections to find private solutions to the problems faced when dealing with bureaucracy.

Trafika (Czech Republic): assigning a fellow politician to an office in a state-owned company in return for their support.

Tsartsaani niüdel (Mongolia): a distinctly Mongolian type of population movement that is arranged before an election in order to influence its outcome.

Uhljeb (Croatia): person who became a public administration employee through a nepotistic relationship or a political party affiliation and does not usually possess the required qualifications for that position.

Uruuchuluk (Kyrgyzstan): lineage-based identity that shapes how the Kyrgyz construe their social world and the extent and quality of their relations with others.

Vay mượn (Vietnam): form of informal loan.

Verlan (France): French slang formed by changing the order of syllables.

Vertical crowdsourcing (Russia): digital technologies harnessed by the state to create semblance of openness, while in practice neutralising citizens' activity and exerting control.

Vetterliwirtschaft/Copinage (Switzerland): lit. network of little cousins, providing mutual favours or preferential treatment.

Veza (Serbia): lit. ‘connection’, the use of informal contacts in order to obtain access to opportunities that are not available through formal channels.

Vitamin B (Germany): use of networks to obtain benefits, enabling favouritism.

Vrski (Macedonia): use of personal connections to obtain goods and services.

Vruzki (Bulgaria): connections or ties used for social exchange of favours, similar to pulling strings.

Vzaimozachety (Russia): Russian term meaning ‘mutual exchange in kind’, and referring to a specific type of inter-firm transactions, whereby a commodity transferred to a partner is paid for by non-monetary means.
**Vzyatkoemkost’** (Russia): in a narrow sense, the potential of a piece of legislation to create opportunities for bribery; in a broader sense, a legal framework that grants state officials discretionary power to extort bribes, obedience or other forms of benefits.

**Wantoks** (Solomon Islands, Melanesia): informal clan-based expectations of welfare and monetary support resulting in overheads for businesses and nepotism in politics.

**Wastā** (Middle East, North Africa): the deployment of intermediation on behalf of an individual or a group to secure some benefit that would be otherwise unobtainable or too burdensome.

**Window dressing** (general): the deliberately misleading manipulation of a company’s income statement and balance sheet in order to create a falsely attractive image and thereby conceal poor performance or monetary losses.

**Yingchou** (China): making informal ties in business through banqueting, karaoke, brothels, etc.

**Yongo** (South Korea): personal or network connections resulting from strong particularistic ties based on kin, educational institution, and region.

**Yonjul** (South Korea): informal ties between people who are members of a social network oriented towards a certain goal.

**Zakaznoe bankrotstvo** (Russia): lit. ‘bankruptcy to order’, use of loopholes in bankruptcy law to launch hostile takeover.

**Zalatwianie** (Poland): getting something done in an easier way, a euphemism describing a range of informal behaviours carried out mostly to obtain benefits by avoiding the use of arduous legal activities or formal rules.

**Zarobitchanstvo** (Ukraine): earnings made through labour migration, both internal and external.

**Zersetzung** (GDR): term used by the East German secret police to denote a range of covert methods to produce distrust towards and between political opponents.