QUASI Seminar Series, 2020-21

The Rutgers Institute for Corporate Social Innovation (RICS) is proud to host the Questions & Unanswers About Social Innovation (QUASI) Seminar Series. To participate, please REGISTER HERE.

January 22nd, 2021, 11:30am – 1:00pm EST

Does corporate lobbying benefit society?

Yes: Brian Richter, Assistant Professor of Business, Government & Society, University of Texas-Austin

1. Lobbying is not a bribe and does not involve a transfer of cash between firms and politicians.


US Constitution. 1789. Amendment I

2. Lobbying is fundamentally about information provision in a constrained system.


3. Lobbying is generally only effective when broad coalitions of groups politicians do not expect to align agree and ineffective when groups take opposing views.


Madison, James. 1787. Federalist 10


4. Lobbying most often yields zero outcome or the status quo.


5. Lobbying does not change politicians’ policy preferences but allows them to get more policy-work done that is aimed at their constituencies’ interests.


No: David Levy, Professor of Management, University of Massachusetts Boston

1. Lobbying is one component of a broader system of corporate power that undermines democracy.


2. Corporate lobbying primarily reflects interests of shareholders, not broader stakeholders, and these do not coincide due to the massive externalities inflicted on society and the corporatization of CSR.


3. Lobbying in practice usually overwhelms other stakeholders and societal groups, so that business interests dominate policy formation.


It depends: Kathleen Rehbein, Associate Professor of Management, Marquette University


Moderator: Aseem Prakash, Walker Family Professor, University of Washington

These articles, provided by the speakers, underpin the arguments that each scholar will make during the seminar. You are encouraged to explore these articles in advance of the seminar, and we hope that you can use them as a resource in your future studies. Please note that hyperlinks may be inaccessible to some. One day, academic articles may be freely available, but for now, many are held hostage behind paywalled. Please contact the authors directly for any articles you cannot access: typically, authors are more than happy to share their work and appreciate the interest. Or you may pay the ransom to the publishers.