Record Nr. UNINA9910282242003321 Autore Koechlin Lucy Titolo Corruption as an empty signifier [[electronic resource]]: politics and political order in Africa / / by Lucy Koechlin Leiden: Boston: Brill, 2013 Pubbl/distr/stampa **ISBN** 90-04-25298-3 Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (297 p.) Collana Africa-Europe Group for Interdisciplinary Studies; ; v. 10 364.1323096 Disciplina Political corruption - Africa Soggetti Democratization - Africa Africa Politics and government 1960-Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia Note generali Description based upon print version of record. Includes bibliographical references and index. Nota di bibliografia Nota di contenuto Introduction: Corruption, politics, and Africa -- 1. The academic discourse: political order and corruption in Africa -- 2. Sketching out an emancipatory discourse: corruption, political spaces and social imaginaries -- Interlude: a topography of corruption in Tanzania -- 3. Democratic spaces in the making? Professional associations and corruption in 2003 -- 4. Closures of democratic spaces? Professional associations and corruption in 2010 -- Conclusions: Corruption, politics, and political order. Corruption as an Empty Signifier critically explores the ways in which Sommario/riassunto corruption in Africa has been equated with African politics and political order, and offers a novel approach to understanding corruption as a potentially emancipatory discourse of political transformation. Conventionally, both academic literature as well as development policies depict corruption as the lynchpin of politics in Africa, locking African societies into political orders which subvert democratic change. Drawing on the findings of a case study of the construction industry in Tanzania, Lucy Koechlin conceptualises corruption as a signifier

in African political orders.

enabling, rather than preventing, social actors to articulate democratic claims. She provides compelling arguments for a more sophisticated understanding of and empirical attentiveness to emancipatory change