

## ITP Research Form

ITP: **Argentina 2019**

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Paper Title: **It's Not Corruption; It's Business with the Government: Soccer as a Tool for Political Capital in Argentina**

Abstract:

**The goal of this paper is to highlight how Argentina's upper echelon has used their people's love for soccer as both a distraction from corrupt activities and a means to implement corrupt practices in the late 20th and early 21<sup>st</sup> century. This paper will examine three events that help to illustrate the importance of soccer in Argentina, as well as how individuals and organizations have improperly used soccer to further their own purposes. These events are the 1978 Argentina World Cup, former President Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner's Fútbol Para Todos program, and the ongoing FIFA Gate scandal. Through research and on-the-ground interviews with Argentine locals and experts, this paper will show that soccer in Argentina is inextricably mixed with corruption—a reality that will not soon change.**