Two years ago a leak of millions of documents, the “Panama Papers,” led to 300 reporters working through the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists publishing a coordinated blast of stories through major outlets around the world, which won the 2017 Pulitzer Prize for how it exposed “the hidden infrastructure and global scale of offshore tax havens.” This past November, a similarly massive trove appeared as the “Paradise Papers,” similarly illustrating pervasive tax evasion (at least) and not helping the images of, among others, Queen Elizabeth, Apple, Madonna, Vladimir Putin, and Bono.

A great set of stories, but have you heard much about them since? There have been a few visible results – especially in Pakistan, where the Supreme Court ousted Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif for corruption. And the law firm in the Panama story, Mossack Fonseca, went out of business. But are business practices changing, or governments cracking down? Professor Gordon offers his perspective as a leading scholar of international tax evasion.

The Friday Public Affairs Discussion Lunch is an opportunity for students, faculty, staff, emeriti and other members of our communities to learn and question each other about public policy issues at the international, national, and local levels. Faculty and other speakers share their research and experience to get beyond the headlines and repetition in the mass media, and the wild rumors of the internet. Lunch is brown bag, but cookies and some beverages are provided by the Center for Policy Studies of the College of Arts and Sciences.

http://fridaylunch.case.edu/