

OSTROM WORKSHOP RESEARCH SERIES

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“The Economics of Regulation
and Antitrust in the Era of
Homeland Security”

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12:00 – 1:00 p.m. • Ostrom Workshop, 513 N. Park



The attacks of September 11, 2001 prompted a fundamental reorganization of the US federal administrative state, with homeland security now accounting for over 40 percent of regulatory spending and 50 percent of regulatory agency staffing (Dudley & Warren, 2016). The massive expansion of security concerns presents formidable challenges for economic policy analysis. It is difficult to assess and prioritize risk-reduction strategies, and benefit-cost analysis of security-related regulations has proven to be exceptionally challenging. Nonetheless, security concerns are now “inextricably intertwined” with many economic and social regulations (e.g., risk regulation at nuclear facilities and oil platforms). This paper provides an analytical narrative of the evolution of the history of the federal regulatory state, focusing on the changes brought about by the expansion of homeland security regulations. Next, it proposes research to understand the nature and consequences of these institutional changes, including the claim that these changes have undermined the legacy missions of many federal agencies.



David Gerard is the John R. Kimberly Distinguished Professor of Economics at Lawrence University and a Visiting Scholar at the Ostrom Workshop. He was formerly the executive director of the Center for the Study & Improvement of Regulation in the Department of Engineering & Public Policy at Carnegie Mellon University. His research interests are in risk regulation and public policy, particularly in areas of energy, natural resources, and the environment ([website](#)).

Presentations are open to the public (see our website for papers). You are welcome to bring your lunch. For questions, contact Allison Sturgeon (sturgeon@iu.edu; 812/855-3151).