

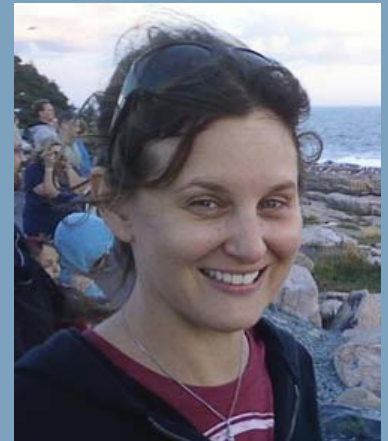
# OSTROM WORKSHOP RESEARCH SERIES

## Kimberly Rogers

*Institute of Arctic and Alpine Research  
University of Colorado*

*Ostrom Workshop Visiting Scholar*

“Intersections of Uncertain Sustainability:  
Infrastructure Management and Institutional  
Misfit in Delta Socioecological Systems”



**Wednesday, October 12, 2016**

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

The fertile soils and abundant waterways of river deltas have attracted humans and supported social, cultural, and economic development for millennia. Consequently, deltas contain intricate socioecological systems facing the challenge of balancing resource demands with conservation, food and freshwater security, social equality, and sustainable development. They are also shaped by physical processes and built infrastructure that transcend geographic and institutional boundaries. Using the Bengal Delta in Bangladesh as a case study, this paper explores how rural farming communities are heterogeneously interacting with large-scale infrastructure in a developing delta nation that is rapidly transforming with climate change. A modified Institutional Analysis and Development framework is applied to examine where scales of physical processes, infrastructure, and institutions intersect, and builds out the hypothesis that these intersections are where the sustainability of delta socioecological systems are most uncertain and unpredictable.



**Kimberly Rogers** is a postdoctoral research associate and NSF *Science, Engineering, and Education for Sustainability* Fellow at the University of Colorado–Boulder, and a 2016 Ostrom Workshop Visiting Scholar. She holds a PhD in Environmental Engineering from Vanderbilt. Her research interests are centered on human-environment interactions in coastal settings, climate vulnerability, sustainable development, and the political ecology of river deltas ([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](mailto:sturgeon@iu.edu); 812/855–3151).