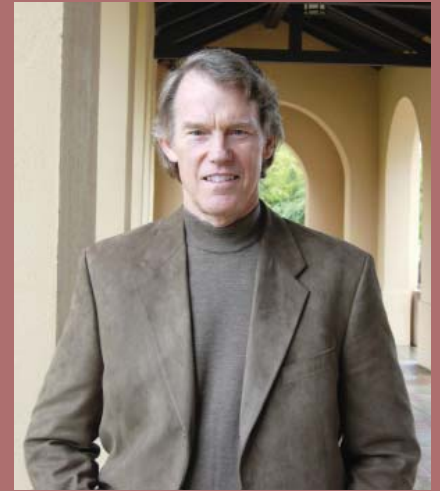


OSTROM WORKSHOP COLLOQUIUM SERIES

Terry M. Moe

Department of Political Science, Stanford University

“Relic: How Our Constitution Undermines Effective Government—And Why We Need a More Powerful Presidency”



Monday, April 11, 2016

12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

Ostrom Workshop, 513 N. Park

Our government is failing us. From health care to immigration to poverty, our political institutions cannot deal effectively with the challenges of modern society. Why the dysfunction? While polarization has surely been harmful, William Howell and Terry Moe argue that the roots of dysfunction actually go much deeper—to the Constitution itself.

The framers designed the Constitution some 225 years ago for a simple agrarian society. But the government they created, a separation of powers system with a parochial Congress at its center, is ill-equipped to address the serious social problems that inevitably arise in a complex post-industrial nation. We are prisoners of the past, burdened with an antiquated government that cannot make effective policy, and often cannot do anything at all.

The solution is to update the Constitution for modern times. This can be done, Howell and Moe argue, through simple reforms that push Congress and its pathologies to the periphery of policymaking, and brings presidents—whose concern for legacy drives them to seek coherent policy solutions—to center stage.



Terry M. Moe is the William Bennett Munro Professor of Political Science at Stanford University and a senior fellow at the Hoover Institution. He has written extensively on the presidency, public bureaucracy, and the American political system, as well as the theory of political institutions more generally. He has also written extensively on the politics of American education and the role of power and special interests in shaping the education system ([website](#)).

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