

# OSTROM WORKSHOP COLLOQUIUM SERIES

## Christiana Ochoa

Maurer School of Law, IU Bloomington

### “Contracts on the Seabed”

**Monday, March 28, 2016**

12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

Ostrom Workshop, 513 N. Park



Over a million square kilometers of the non-sovereign seafloor is under mineral exploration licenses and, by some assessments, an additional four million square kilometers of seabed pertaining to sovereign Pacific Island nations are under contract for mineral exploration or exploitation. Historically, these licenses have acted as “squatters’ rights” in anticipation of a distant future when the machinery to exploit oceanic mineral wealth might be developed. That moment has arrived, with the first seafloor mining machines rolling off production lines in 2015–2016. What have not arrived apace with these innovations are the governance mechanisms to adequately balance the known, unknown, and unknowable effects of seafloor mining. Rather, the primary targets for seafloor mining are scrambling to create the statutory, regulatory, and administrative structures necessary to support seafloor mining, and buttress against the harms it may cause. In such contexts, countries must require strong contracts that approximate the terms on which local populations consent to seafloor mining activity, and which attempt to adequately protect the environment and traditional human uses of the sea.



**Christiana Ochoa** is a professor of law and Charles L. Whistler Faculty Fellow at the IU Maurer School of Law. Her research focuses on the question of how economic activity intersects with human well-being. Her scholarship in these areas has been published widely, and her first documentary film, *Otra Cosa No Hay/There is Nothing Else*, was completed in 2014. She is pursuing fieldwork toward the production of a second documentary, which will focus on law as a set of tools for the realization of differing views of development. She is associate director of the IU Center for Documentary Research and Practice, a center within The Media School that brings together scholars and artists from across the university who will work on an array of nonfiction media projects ([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](mailto:sturgeon@iu.edu); 812/855–3151).