

OSTROM WORKSHOP RESEARCH SERIES

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Ostrom Workshop Visiting Scholar

“Governing a Layered Territory: Overlapping Property Rights and Mismatching Incentives in Afro-Brazilian Territories”

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12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

Ostrom Workshop, 513 N. Park



Significant advances have taken place in recognizing property rights in areas occupied by local and indigenous communities, particularly in tropical forest areas known for their conservation value. As a result, complex mosaics of property rights are evolving whereas one observes both overlaps and mismatches between rights regulating land, ecosystems, and specific resources. Here, we analyze how overlapping property systems and related institutional arrangements affect the incentives to manage common property resources. In particular, we examine the case of the Afro-Brazilian (Quilombola) territories in the Atlantic Forest. We take a Social-Ecological Systems approach to examine the type and degree of overlaps and mismatches across three levels: territories (governance system), forest (resource system), and the *Euterpe edulis* palm tree (resource unit). We argue that the layered structure of property rights has diffused the sense of ownership of the resource without providing effective mechanisms for assuring compliance and monitoring of the resource.



Cristina Adams is an associate professor at the School of Arts, Sciences and Humanities (EACH) and the Institute of Energy and Environment (IEE), University of São Paulo (USP), Brazil, and currently a visiting scholar at the Ostrom Workshop. With an interdisciplinary training in Ecology and Anthropology, her main research agenda focuses on traditional food production systems in the Neotropical forests of Brazil (Amazon and Atlantic Forest) and their adaptation to changing socioeconomic and institutional environments ([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).