

# OSTROM WORKSHOP RESEARCH SERIES

## Maiko Nishi

Urban Planning, Columbia University  
Ostrom Workshop Visiting Scholar

“Multi-Level Governance of Agricultural Landscapes in Japan: Perceptions of Farmland and Property Rights Re-Arrangements”

**Wednesday, April 20, 2016**

12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

Ostrom Workshop, 513 N. Park



Agricultural land abandonment has swelled over the past several decades in Japan, having an alarming implication not only of foiling economic gains, but also of cultural heritage loss, uncertainty of food security, and biodiversity change. In this context, a cross-level coordination of property rights trading has been evolving to curb farmland abandonment and at the same time possibly promote sustainable farmland management. The dissertation aims to investigate *how perceptions about values of agricultural land are held by actors and stakeholders across different levels in Japan, and then influence their responses to agricultural landscape management*. By conducting an in-depth analysis of property rights re-arrangements in Ishikawa Prefecture of Japan, the study will examine *how farmers with different types of property rights perceive farmland and act on their perceptions to feed into property rights re-arrangements, and in turn what consequences a cross-level coordination of property rights trading has particularly at the local level*.



**Maiko Nishi** is a PhD student in Urban Planning at Columbia University in New York City, and currently a visiting scholar at the Ostrom Workshop and the Center for the Analysis of Social-Ecological Landscapes (CASEL), IU Bloomington. Her primary area of interest includes local and regional environmental planning and social-ecological system governance. Her dissertation will be focused on multi-level governance of agricultural landscapes in Japan ([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).