

# OSTROM WORKSHOP RESEARCH SERIES

## Nadine Schröder

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“The Lens of Polycentricity: Identifying Polycentric Governance Systems Illustrated through Examples from the Field of Water Governance”

**Monday, May 9, 2016**

12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

Ostrom Workshop, 513 N. Park



This paper discusses definitions that have been developed and used in the study of polycentric governance, and offers some refinements of those definitions for purposes of operationalization and application to an empirical setting—in other words, for viewing governance arrangements through the lens of Polycentricity. The paper then presents a pair of cases from Berlin and Hamburg concerning the implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive, characterizing the two cases in terms of their Polycentricity and comparing how they have functioned so far. Using the lens of Polycentricity helps to illuminate important features and distinctions of those two cases, and the effort to apply Polycentricity also yields insights about further work that needs to be done in defining and operationalizing the concept.



**Nadine Schröder** is a PhD candidate in the Environmental Governance Group at the Department of Resource Economics of Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Germany. She holds a BA in East Asian Studies, one MSc in Integrated Natural Resource Management, and one MSc in Environmental Engineering. In her PhD, she is researching polycentric governance structures in the implementation processes of the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) in Germany. She is analyzing whether there is a correlation between the organizational setting (the distribution of competencies, power, and resources among different decision-making centers) and the occurrence and the characteristics of coordination processes across sectors and borders and public participation in the planning of projects to implement the WFD ([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).