

OSTROM WORKSHOP **TOCQUEVILLE LECTURE SERIES**

Roberta Herzberg

*Individual Freedom and Free Markets Department
John Templeton Foundation*

“Polycentricity and Social Connectedness
in the Work of Vincent and Elinor Ostrom”

Friday, February 26, 2016

11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Ostrom Workshop, 513 N. Park



Cosponsors: Tocqueville Program, Department of Political Science, Ostrom Workshop

The work of Lin and Vincent Ostrom established the Bloomington School as a force at the core of modern institutional analysis and public choice by focusing attention on the power of human creativity to solve collective human dilemmas. Lin and Vincent were willing to use the abstract methods and language of public choice theory, but their appreciation of human capability and self-governing always kept them solidly grounded in real world decision-making. It was their need to be empirically grounded that enriched their contribution. As a result, their work speaks to a broader audience, but the message is not always well-understood in these broad contexts. In this presentation, I will consider how the Ostroms' work established a focus on the foundation of self-governance and its dual notion (both participation and individual responsibility) as an essential part of modern institutional analysis. I hope that exploring their contributions will suggest best methods for ensuring that this part of the Bloomington School continues to shape scholarship in public policy and public choice.

During this discussion we might consider several questions: First, how might we use the work of the Bloomington School to understand the source of shared norms and institutions and the role that each plays in a free society? Second, how are such norms/institutions impacted by a growing reliance on larger or more distant government policies? Do such policy trends limit the relevance of the Ostrom approach or instead does this enhance its importance? Third, where can the contributions of the Ostroms be most effective in designing best institutions for a self-governing society and what limitations might such an approach encounter? Finally, what type of program or grant might be designed to ensure that the ideas of the Bloomington School have a prominent place in this debate?



Roberta Herzberg is Assistant Director of the Individual Freedom and Free Markets Department at the John Templeton Foundation and Emeritus Associate Professor of Political Science at Utah State University where her research and teaching focused on health care policy and political economy. She currently serves as the president of the Public Choice Society (2014–2016) and is a member of the Mont Pelerin Society ([website](#)).

Presentations are open to the public. You are welcome to bring your lunch. For questions, contact Allison Sturgeon (sturgeon@iu.edu; 812/855–3151).