

OSTROM WORKSHOP COLLOQUIUM SERIES

Xavier Basurto

*Nicholas School of the Environment
Duke University*



“Finding Order Amid Complex Small-Scale Fisheries Self-Governance Arrangements: A ‘Beyond-Harvesting’ Research Agenda for Common-Pool Resources Theory”

Monday, October 30, 2017

12:00 – 1:00 p.m. • Ostrom Workshop, 513 N. Park

In this paper, we expand existing conceptual tools from institutional analysis and common-pool resource theory to guide research on self-governing regimes. We use small-scale fisheries as an illustrative case of complex systems that take place largely outside of the reach of State authority. While most common-pool resources theory has focused on harvesting activities to date, small-scale fisheries are organized around interlinked pre-harvesting, harvesting, and post-harvesting activities forcing us to rethink an approach to better understand operational fishing activities. To do this first, we propose a new institutional level, the micro-institutional level, that captures how individual behavioral patterns shape self-organization. Then, we describe a basic set of linked action situations common to all small-scale fisheries that capture the connections among pre-harvesting, harvesting, and post-harvesting decisions. We illustrate the utility of these theoretical advancements with an empirical investigation of self-governing fisher-fish buyer relationships in Mexican small-scale fisheries.



Xavier Basurto is associate professor of sustainability science at the Nicholas School of the Environment at Duke University. He is interested in the politics of collective action and self-governance and the interaction of politics with the biophysical environment. From 2007 to 2009, he was a visiting research associate at the Workshop in Political Theory and Policy Analysis at IU and did his PhD at the University of Arizona under the mentorship of Edella Schlager ([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. For questions, contact Allison Sturgeon (sturgeon@iu.edu; 812/855-3151).