

OSTROM WORKSHOP COLLOQUIUM SERIES

Marco Janssen

School of Sustainability, Arizona State University

“Playing Games to Save Water:
Collective Action Games for Groundwater
Management in Andhra Pradesh, India”

Monday, December 4, 2017

12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

Ostrom Workshop, 513 N. Park



Groundwater is one of the most challenging common-pool resources to govern, resulting in resource depletion in many areas. We present an innovative use of collective-action games to not only measure propensity for cooperation, but to improve local understanding of groundwater interrelationships and stimulate collective governance of groundwater, based on a pilot study in Andhra Pradesh, India. The games simulate crop choice and consequences for the aquifer. These were followed by a community debriefing, which provided an entry point for discussing the interconnectedness of groundwater use, to affect mental models about groundwater. A slightly modified game was played in the same communities, one year later. After the games were played, a significantly higher proportion of communities adopted water registers and rules to govern groundwater, compared to other communities in the same NGO water commons program.



Marco Janssen is a professor in the School of Sustainability, and the director of the Center for Behavior, Institutions and the Environment, both at Arizona State University. His research focuses on the governance of common resources. In his research, he combines behavioral experiments, agent-based models, and case study analysis applied to diverse topics such as small-scale irrigation systems and urban coupled infrastructure systems (for more info, see [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).