

# OSTROM WORKSHOP RESEARCH SERIES

## Yuan (Daniel) Cheng

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“Nonprofit Spending and Government Provision of Public Services: Testing Theories of Government-Nonprofit Relationships”



**Wednesday, November 1, 2017**

12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

Ostrom Workshop, 513 N. Park

Empirical studies and theories of government-nonprofit relationships have assumed a unidirectional funding flow from governments to nonprofits and therefore focusing on the impact of governments on nonprofits. By bringing in the critical mass theory and utilizing a unique panel dataset that contains nonprofit and city government spending on parks, this article examines several prominent theoretical models of government-nonprofit relationships to answer the question of how expenditures of park-supporting charities influence public spending on parks and recreation services. The findings suggest that nonprofit spending on parks in a city has a non-linear decreasing effect on public spending on parks, which supports the market niche model. In addition, this relationship is mainly driven by local governments' non-capital expenditures on parks. The presentation will conclude with a discussion of how this paper is linked to the Ostrom Workshop funded research project.



**Yuan (Daniel) Cheng** is currently a visiting assistant professor in the School of Public and Environmental Affairs at Indiana University, where he received his PhD in Public Affairs in July 2017. His research focuses on government and nonprofit sector relations, coproduction, and the distributional and performance implications of cross-sector collaboration. More information about Daniel's research and teaching can be found on his [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).