

# OSTROM WORKSHOP **TOCQUEVILLE LECTURE SERIES**

## **Peter Levine**

*Lincoln Filene Professor of Citizenship & Public Affairs  
Tufts University*

“Elinor Ostrom and the Citizen’s Basic  
Question: What Should We Do?”

**Thursday, October 5, 2017**

12:00–1:30 p.m.

Ostrom Workshop, 513 N. Park



*Cosponsors: Tocqueville Program, Lilly Family School of Philanthropy, PACE Program*

Instead of asking “What is going on and why?” or “What should be done?” (the most typical questions in the social sciences), a citizen must ask “What should we do?” Groups of citizens who pose that question together face a list of recurrent challenges. The great Indiana University scholar Elinor Ostrom (1933–2012) exemplified a way of addressing an important subset of those challenges. When combined with two other traditions of thought, her “Bloomington School” of political economy provides a foundation for Civic Studies, an emerging interdisciplinary effort to understand society from the perspective of groups of citizens. This talk will interpret her achievement in those terms.



**Peter Levine** is the Associate Dean for Research and Lincoln Filene Professor of Citizenship & Public Affairs in Tufts University’s Jonathan Tisch College of Civic Life. He was previously the director of CIRCLE (The Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement). Levine graduated from Yale in 1989 with a degree in philosophy. He studied philosophy at Oxford on a Rhodes Scholarship, receiving his doctorate in 1992. He is the author of *We Are the Ones We Have Been Waiting For: The Promise of Civic Renewal in America* (Oxford University Press, 2013), five earlier scholarly books on philosophy and politics, and a novel ([website](#)).

Presentations are open to the public and are live streamed (see our website for URL). You are welcome to bring your lunch. For questions, contact Allison Sturgeon ([sturgeon@iu.edu](mailto:sturgeon@iu.edu); 812/855–3151).