

OSTROM WORKSHOP COLLOQUIUM SERIES

Kenneth Shepsle

Department of Government, Harvard University

“Rules and Rule Breaking, Institutions and Institutional Change”

Monday, April 10, 2017

12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

Ostrom Workshop, 513 N. Park



The present paper begins with the well-traveled notion of institutions as “the rules of the game” and seeks to give some conceptual concreteness to the idea of rules in order to understand what it means to break the rules. While rules certainly channel and constrain behavior, and in principle require some actions and prohibit others, deviations from these requirements and prohibitions do occur. In addition, rules may be “interpreted,” and the rules, themselves, do change—what humans devise they may revise. With all this conceptual movement, are the rules of the game too wobbly a foundation for the study of institutions?



Kenneth Shepsle is the George D. Markham Professor of Government and a founding member of The Institute for Quantitative Social Science at Harvard University. He has written numerous articles on formal political theory, congressional and parliamentary politics, public policy, and political economy. In 1990, he was elected to the National Academy of Sciences and to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He was chair of the Department of Government at Harvard, 1995–98. His current research focuses on formal models and historical analysis of political institutions, strategic politicians, and legislative politics ([website](#)).

On April 12, Professor Shepsle will give the third annual Ostrom Memorial Lecture on “Rule Breaking and Political Imagination” at the IMU, State Room East, 5:00–6:00 PM (reception to follow in State Room West).

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).