

# OSTROM WORKSHOP RESEARCH SERIES

## Jordan Blekking

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IU Bloomington*

“Who Gains From Rural Agricultural Cooperative Membership? Empirical Evidence from Rural Zambia”

**Wednesday, February 8, 2017**

12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

Ostrom Workshop, 513 N. Park



In the 1970s and 1980s, policymakers across the globe looked to agricultural cooperatives as a means through which food insecurity would be more effectively mitigated. Policymakers viewed cooperatives as a means of bringing smallholders together in an attempt to leverage the benefits of collective action. Cooperatives often take on the role of serving as a bridge between smallholders and agricultural input producers, in order to increase the use of Green Revolution inputs by the rural poor. The Southern African nation of Zambia provides an ideal case study through which we may view the relationship between government-initiated smallholder cooperatives, inputs, and rural households due to the government’s long-standing support of subsidized input distribution through cooperatives. Previous research finds Zambian cooperatives have been successful in pairing smallholders with inputs, yet we find rural households with low grain production gain membership into cooperatives much less frequently and fail to secure the benefits associated with cooperatives.



**Jordan Blekking** is a Master of Science student in the Department of Geography. His research interests lie within human-environmental interactions; specifically, smallholder agricultural systems in Southern Africa, food security and livelihood resiliency throughout rural communities, and the role of governance in promoting seed certification and use by smallholder farmers. Previously, Jordan served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Zambia for three and a half years ([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).