OSTROM WORKSHOP RESEARCH SERIES

Jesper Larsson

Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences Ostrom Workshop Visiting Scholar

"Reindeer Husbandry, Sami Economy, and the Evolution of Common-Pool Resources in Early Modern Northern Scandinavia, 1550–1780"



Wednesday, February 22, 2017

12:00 – 1:00 p.m. • Ostrom Workshop, 513 N. Park

During the last decades, there has been a large increase of knowledge about the use of common-pool resources in early modern Europe. Despite having an economy based on extensive reindeer husbandry, the use of CPRs has been almost absent in the discussion of early modern Sami communities. This paper endeavors to fill this void, presenting an empirical-based assessment of how changes in Sami economy came to alter the landscape use and implication for property rights and collective action. The paper will discuss these changes using the IAD framework. In early modern Lappmark in northern Sweden, two groups of Sami lived off different resources and in different areas, yet within the same administrative organization. We conclude that due to differences in their ecology, these groups developed along different economic trajectories by changing their rules in use. The change was self-organized, and differences are visible when comparing attributes of these communities.

Jesper Larsson is a Research Fellow at the Royal Swedish Academy of Letters, History, and Antiquities and Associated Senior Lecturer in Agrarian History at the Department of Urban and Rural Development, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Uppsala, Sweden. He studies governance of natural resources in early modern northern Scandinavia, particularly common-pool resources. His current project, *Self-Governing and Globalization*, addresses changes in landscape use and settlement development. He is a Visiting Scholar at the Ostrom Workshop (website).

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