

OSTROM WORKSHOP RESEARCH SERIES

Nabila Rahman

Department of Political Science; Ostrom Research Awardee, IU Bloomington

“Of Waste and Wealth: Local Government and Citizenship in Urban India”



Wednesday, OCTOBER 17, 2018

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

Within both developed and developing countries, citizens’ abilities to access public goods remain highly uneven, falling across ethnic, religious, and linguistic lines. Conceptualizing solid waste management as a public good with transboundary environmental and public health implications, I look to unpack this variation further through my dissertation, asking, “How is access to municipal waste collection services influenced by economic inequality?” Building on conversations with scholars during pre-dissertation fieldwork, I hypothesize that the relationship between access and inequality is mediated by differing conceptions of citizenship and entitlements. My project takes place in Kolkata, West Bengal. Despite solid waste being a global issue, India demands special attention: waste and wealth are intimately linked, and with a booming economy that has been the fastest growing for the last two years, India brings to the forefront questions of how to continue economic growth in ways that are sustainable and equitable.



[Nabila Rahman](#) is a PhD student in the Department of Political Science at Indiana University. Through the support of the Ostrom Workshop, the Office of Sustainability, and the Dhar India Studies Program, she has undertaken pre-dissertation fieldwork within the cities of Kolkata, Bengaluru, and New Delhi during summer 2018. Nabila’s research interests span across public goods provision, development, and urban politics.

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; 812/855–3151).