

# OSTROM WORKSHOP COLLOQUIUM SERIES

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“Social Origins of Institutional Strength:  
Prior Consultation over Extraction of  
Hydrocarbons in Bolivia”

**Monday, March 26, 2018**

12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

Ostrom Workshop, 513 N. Park



Much has been written in the social sciences about why and how institutions come about and gradually change. Less attention, however, has been paid to the questions of why and how institutions strengthen. In this chapter, I propose a conceptualization of institutional strength based on social actors' compliance and on state's enforcement. I trace these dimensions in the institutionalization of prior consultation (the collective right of indigenous communities to be consulted before mega-infrastructure or extractive projects begin) in Bolivia from 1991 until the present. I argue that prior consultation was adopted due to the social mobilization and political pressure from indigenous groups. However, the institution remained weak until the indigenous movement was politically incorporated into the state. Only then, prior consultation in hydrocarbons was systematically complied with and enforced. This chapter will show that the political incorporation of the mobilized groups who are behind institutional creation leads to institutional strengthening.



**Tulia Falleti** is the Class of 1965 Term Associate Professor of Political Science, Director of the Latin American and Latino Studies Program, and Senior Fellow of the Leonard Davis Institute for Health Economics at the University of Pennsylvania. She is the author of *Decentralization and Subnational Politics in Latin America* (Cambridge University Press, 2010), which earned the Donna Lee Van Cott Award to the best book on political institutions by the Latin American Studies Association ([website](#)).

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).