

OSTROM WORKSHOP RESEARCH SERIES

Lucy Miller

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“Institutional Change in Amazonian
Communities: Impacts of Rural-Urban
Mobility and Protected Area Land Titling”



Wednesday, April 11, 2018

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

Community-based conservation models have proliferated since the 1990s when policy makers began to reconsider the role of local people in environmental conservation. This conservation strategy decentralizes state control over natural resources to local groups considered to use sustainable land management practices. While many communities have benefited from securing land and governance rights, smallholder farmers and forest producers living in protected areas face new challenges amid urbanizing and globalizing processes. In the Brazilian Amazon, rapid urbanization, increased rural-urban mobility, and rural livelihood change are impacting local-level institutions governing forest resources. In this dissertation chapter, I use a case study from the Amazon Estuary to understand how communities transform institutional arrangements in conservation areas as households increasingly situate their lives between forest and cities. I examine how rural-urban mobility impacts use-rights for specific resources as well as social attributes, such as trust, which are crucial for successful collective action.



Lucy Miller is a PhD candidate in the Anthropology Department at Indiana University and affiliate of the Centre for the Analysis of Socio-Ecological Landscapes. She has studied human-environmental issues in the Brazilian Amazon since 2009. Her dissertation project employs ethnographic research methods to understand the impacts of rural-urban mobility on resource governance, livelihood strategies, and rural identity across generations of resource users residing in an environmentally protected area in the state of Pará, Brazil ([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; 812/855-3151).