

OSTROM WORKSHOP RESEARCH SERIES

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“National Policies vs. Context-Specific Realities: The Response of Diverse Municipalities to an Anti-Deforestation Policy in the Brazilian Amazon”



Wednesday, November 6, 2019

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

The deforestation blacklist has been praised as one innovative policy instrument contributing to the progress Brazil made towards halting forest loss in the Amazon recently. By targeting monitoring and sanctioning actions at the municipality scale, the blacklist policy triggered cooperation among local actors towards controlling deforestation and geocoding landholdings. Despite promising results, most municipalities remain blacklisted to date. This study looks at how that policy has interacted temporal and spatially with context-specific realities in a region markedly diverse and dynamic. I draw upon a cross-sectional analysis framing four municipalities across a spatial gradient depicting the deforestation frontier in northeastern Amazon. Using secondary data, satellite imagery, and local stakeholders' interviews, I discuss how the settlement history related to the frontier expansion shapes each municipality's ability to respond to the blacklist policy. Ostrom's IAD framework guides the organization and analysis of context-specific attributes – biophysical, social, economic, and political – mediating local interactions and responses towards the blacklist. Additionally, I discuss how local responses have interacted across municipalities, government levels, and parallel initiatives to change the incentives at stake for collective action in different places over time.

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Paulo Massoca is pursuing his Ph.D. in Environmental Science in the O'Neill SPEA at Indiana University Bloomington (2015-2020). His research interests relate to forest ecology, conservation biology, institutional analysis, and environmental policies. He is particularly interested in the ecological dynamics and role of second-growth forests in conserving and provisioning ecosystem services, the drivers of land use and cover change, and the responses arising from context-specific realities to one-size-fits-all national policies to control deforestation in the Amazon.

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).