



INDIANA UNIVERSITY BLOOMINGTON OSTROM WORKSHOP

COLLOQUIUM SERIES

Bryan Leonard

School of Sustainability, Arizona State University

Monday, October 12, 2020: 12:00 – 1:00 pm EST

Virtual via Zoom: [Click here for link to Zoom meeting](#)



Property Rights without Transfer Rights: A Study of Indian Land Allotment

Government programs that privatize commonly held land often include provisions that limit the ability of individuals to alienate property for fear that property owners may sell their property against their own best interest or that of the community. These restrictions have often been paternalistically applied to poor and indigenous communities around the world. The potential cost of such restrictions is that they limit or eliminate the property's value as collateral in credit markets. We investigate this using a natural experiment whereby millions of acres of reservation lands were allotted to Native American households under differing land titles between 1887—1934. We compare non-transferable plots to neighboring plots held without transfer restrictions using fine-grained satellite imagery to study differences in land development and agricultural activity from 1974—today. We find that transfer restrictions reduce land utilization, especially on lands that were allotted to individuals vs. those that were retained by tribes.

Bryan Leonard is an assistant professor of natural resource economics in the School of Sustainability at Arizona State University and a Senior Research Fellow at the Property and Environment Research Center in Bozeman, Montana. His research combines theory, historical research, and econometric methods to study the performance of institutions for resolving collective action problems associated with sustainable resource management, focusing on land, water, and other resources in the American West.

Ostrom Workshop
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Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all Ostrom workshop presentations will be virtual until further notice. Join instantly using the link above. For questions, contact Allison Sturgeon (sturgeon@iu.edu)