



INDIANA UNIVERSITY BLOOMINGTON **OSTROM WORKSHOP**

RESEARCH SERIES

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Wednesday, November 18, 2020: 12:00 – 1:00 pm ET

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

Is Governance Enough? Assessing Municipal Capacity and CSO Participation for Complex Service Delivery

Municipal governments in the Global South vary in their ability to provide not only complex social services, like environmentally proper solid waste disposal, but even simple services, like trash collection from the streets. This paper examines whether variation in service provision outcomes is associated with service-specific local administrative capacity, locally embedded civil society organization (CSO) involvement, and local-level collaborative governance. Using a panel dataset of Peruvian municipalities, I find that while CSO engagement is associated with better outcomes for simple services, only greater public administration capacity is associated with higher service outcomes when the service is more complex. This suggests that CSOs may face difficulties to substitute for the state in the provision of technically complex services. Contrary to expectation, there is no association between collaborative governance patterns and service outcomes. These findings have implications for climate change mitigation and adaptation in Global South cities that tend to struggle with service-specific administrative capacity.

Renzo de la Riva Agüero is a Public Policy Ph.D. candidate at the O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs and the Department of Political Science. His work engages with research on administrative capacity, non-state service provision, coproduction and collaborative governance in the fields of public administration and comparative politics. Particularly, he studies how local governance conditions in the Global South may explain performance differences between services of varying complexity.

Ostrom Workshop
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