

OSTROM WORKSHOP COLLOQUIUM SERIES

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Institutional Change in Property Rights: Model and Evidence of a Centuries-Long Dynamic

Monday, April 6, 2020

12:00–1:00 PM • Presented via Zoom Meeting

<https://iu.zoom.us/j/2395327669>



Drawing on a long-term institutional transition, we provide a model that describes the progressive closure of more affluent societies to migration in order to protect the wealth of insiders. This closure took the institutional form of patrilineal property rights. We show how this institutional change can emerge locally, spread by contagion, and generate a situation where societies are locked into a gender-biased society. Only a centralized top-down intervention could restore gender equality in property rights. This pattern is presented through a model and exemplified through the historical situation of communities in the Italian Alps, where inheritance institutions over common property resources evolved over the course of six centuries (1200-1800). Through a computational model and historical data, we uncover the mechanisms for this shift and show the gradual transition from an egalitarian to a patrilineal institutional regime.



[Marco Casari](#) is a Professor of Political Economy at the University of Bologna and currently visiting CASBS, Stanford University. He earned a Ph.D. from Caltech and held positions at OSU, Autònoma University Barcelona, and Purdue University. His research is about the foundations of cooperation in societies from both an institutional and a behavioral perspectives. One focus are the commons and, recently, identifying behavioral obstacles that makes global climate change such a difficult problem to overcome.

Due to the COVID-19 health crisis, this will be a virtual presentation. Join instantly using the link above. For questions, contact Allison Sturgeon (sturgeon@iu.edu; 812/855–3151).