

OSTROM WORKSHOP RESEARCH SERIES

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“Cultural Heritage Management in Mexico:
Public Archaeology, Commons, Cultural
Governance, and Ethical Issues”



Wednesday, March 4, 2020

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

Archaeology focuses the attention of scholars in many fields onto the problem of cultural heritage management (CHM). This research describes and contextualizes the history of CHM in Mexico, through the analysis of interactions among archaeologists, economists, environmental preservationists, and government policies within institutional law frameworks. This project examines the feasibility of treating cultural heritage as a common pool resource in the Mexican action arena, using the Institutional Analysis Framework (IAD) created by Elinor Ostrom. Mexico has recorded approximately 48,000 archaeological sites in the country, of which only 190 are open or partially open to the public by state, and local communities' inaccessibility to manage their cultural resources had affected opportunities for a possible economic development. Current Mexican examples, where consuetudinary decision-making process reflects social attributes such as beliefs, reciprocity, communality, or prestige, have been chosen for observing diverse management models in action. This research aims to contribute to the understanding of the emerging phenomenon of community-ruled heritage management model in Southern Mexico.

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Jorge L. Rios-Allier is a third-year PhD student at the Department of Anthropology. His research topics include economic value of archaeology, cultural bureaucracy issues, environmental and cultural anthropology in Cultural Heritage Management (CHM); focus mainly on frameworks, analysis, and perspectives in several locations around current world. Jorge is particularly interested in the performance of national and subnational governments in different locations where collective decision-making action arenas links with Cultural Heritage Management. Also, his research is interested in the diversity of institutional frameworks and organizational capacities about heritage management and cultural governance.

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).