SPECIAL WEDNESDAY COLLOQUIUM

Jane Sell

Texas A & M University,
Ostrom Workshop Visiting Scholar

Wednesday, October 20: 12:00 – 1:00 pm ET
Virtual via Zoom: Click here for link to Zoom meeting

When Might Forgiveness Help Solve Social Dilemmas?

When people know that others have a reputation for being cooperative, their decisions about how and whether they should cooperate seems straightforward. However, what if people know that others have a noncooperative reputation?

How reputations develop, are assessed, and can be repaired are often complicated issues. To address some of these issues, we first develop formal definitions of observers and reputation. We then ask how noncooperative or “bad” reputations might be repaired. When the goal is solving a social dilemma, forgiveness is important because it can enable social integration and cohesion. Based on the developed definitions and past research we suggest some possibilities for forgiveness and reconciliation. We also consider an experimental paradigm to investigate reputations.

Jane Sell is a Professor Emeritus in Sociology at Texas A&M University. Her research interests include the development and decay of cooperation in social dilemmas and how different factors affect racial/ethnic equality within small groups. She is also interested in the interdependence between theory and methodology. Together with Murray Webster, Jr. she has considered the role of experimental research in their edited book, Laboratory Experiments in the Social Sciences, 2014.

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)