



INDIANA UNIVERSITY BLOOMINGTON
OSTROM WORKSHOP

COLLOQUIUM SERIES

Rebecca M. Bratspies

CUNY School of Law

Monday, March 15: 12:00 – 1:00 pm ET

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



**Throwing It Away: Marshalling Commons Theory in
Defense of Disposable Communities**

Laws regulating waste disposal facilities typically have their roots in nuisance. This paper asks what happens if we use the lens, not of nuisance, but of the commons to examine these facilities? Do articulations of the City as a Commons give environmental justice communities any new tools in their struggle for waste equity? Does it give more traction to community objections to the environmental burdens associated with waste facilities? More broadly, can commons thinking shift the focus to ending the single-stream usage that creates the need for these facilities in the first place. This paper explores these questions in the context of one specific community in New York City and its battle with two waste transfer stations.

Rebecca Bratspies Rebecca Bratspies is a Professor at CUNY School of Law and Director of the Center for Urban Environmental Reform. Her most recent book is *Environmental Justice: Law Policy and Regulation*. Bratspies is as an appointed member of New York City's Environmental Justice Advisory Panel, and of EPA's Children's Health Protection Advisory Committee. Her environmental justice comic books *Mayah's Lot* and *Bina's Plant* build environmental literacy in a new generation of environmental leaders.

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)