



# INDIANA UNIVERSITY BLOOMINGTON OSTROM WORKSHOP

## COLLOQUIUM SERIES

### Anita Milman

*University of Massachusetts at Amherst*

Monday, March 22: 12:00 – 1:00 pm ET

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



### Concerns and Mechanism Choice under a Mandate for Inter-Agency Coordination

Inter-agency coordination can provide a variety of benefits; yet concerns about autonomy and the potential risks of coordination may inhibit voluntary coordination. Differing coordination mechanisms may serve to reduce or exacerbate those concerns. Thus, when agencies are mandated to coordinate, a critical question is not whether to coordinate, but how to coordinate. This research examines choices made by agencies as they implement California's Sustainable Groundwater Management Act in order to develop insights on agency choice of coordination mechanisms. The research delineates the variety of concerns of agencies and analyzes how combinations of these concerns influence the specific coordination mechanisms adopted by agencies. It then evaluates implications of those choices on structures and processes for decision-making across the groundwater basin. Findings serve to increase explanatory power of theories of inter-agency coordination by delineating the influence of risk aversion in coordination processes. The research also provides insights that explain variation in agency responses to mandates for coordination.

**Anita Milman** is an associate professor in the Department of Environmental Conservation (ECO) at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Her research examines the multi-level governance of water resources with the goal of concurrently contributing to institutional theory as well as improving water resources management. Milman is a visiting fellow with the Ostrom Workshop and despite the pandemic, hopes to engage with the community in more depth.

Ostrom Workshop  
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Bloomington, IN 47408  
[ostromworkshop.indiana.edu](http://ostromworkshop.indiana.edu)

*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](mailto:sturgeon@iu.edu))*