



INDIANA UNIVERSITY BLOOMINGTON
OSTROM WORKSHOP

COLLOQUIUM SERIES

Seth Frey

Department of Communication, UC Davis

Monday, April 5: 12:00 – 1:00 pm ET

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



Emergence of Integrated Institutions in a Large Population of Self-Governing Communities

The most memorable and enduring contributions of the Ostrom Workshop to our knowledge of institutions were all built on the back of large-scale comparative institutional analyses—Governing the Commons, NIIS, and IFRI—some of which built databases of hundreds of cases over years. With modern methods, and a change in focus to the digital realm, it is now possible, in days, to compare hundreds of thousands of common pool resource management institutions, and vastly improve both the speed and quality of institution-level insights.

Since an early contribution by Hess ("The Virtual CPR", 1995), scholars have recognized online communities as legitimate resource management institutions. However, most work has focused on their conceptual novelty, rather than their scientific potential. In this talk I will discuss how the internet provides massive quantities of simplified, standardized, and yet wildly diverse small-scale resource management institutions, and a laboratory for studying the predictors of successful institutional development.

Dr. Seth Frey is a cognitive scientist and computational social scientist who studies human decision behavior in complex social environments. His expertise is in computational institutional analysis and the cognitive science of strategic behavior. He is a professor in Communication at UC Davis and an affiliate of the Ostrom Workshop. Previously he studied engineered social systems at Disney Research, a part of Walt Disney Imagineering. His work has been funded by the NSF, NASA, and the Mozilla Foundation.

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)