



INDIANA UNIVERSITY BLOOMINGTON OSTROM WORKSHOP

COLLOQUIUM SERIES

Praneeta Mudaliar

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Monday, April 19: 12:00 – 1:00 pm ET

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



When Promises Become Pathologies: Fragmentation in Lake Victoria's Polycentric Fisheries in Tanzania

Polycentric systems, with multiple, autonomous, coordinating decision centers are supposed to ensure robust, adaptive socio-ecological systems. Accordingly, interest in investigating the promised benefits of polycentric systems has increased. However, a systematic examination of the pathologies of polycentric systems is missing. Drawing upon qualitative data from Tanzania's Lake Victoria's fisheries, this research investigates how may interactions fragment decision centers to create a dysfunctional polycentric system? With the Institutional Analysis and Development framework serving as the theoretical framework, findings suggest that authority, information, and resources shape noncoordinating and noncooperative coexistences, conflicts, and perverse cooperation between higher and lower-level decision centers, while enabling cooperation among higher level centers. These interactions fragment lower-level authorities, facilitating centralized control over fisheries management. The paper elaborates upon these findings and concludes with questions on pathologies in polycentric system for future research.

Praneeta Mudaliar is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Environmental Studies and Sciences at Ithaca College. Praneeta's research examines power dynamics, conditions that foster collective action in groups with socio-cultural inequalities, and government interactions in the shared governance of resources. Recent projects have focused on community-based watershed management in India and the U.S., Lake Victoria's polycentric fisheries in Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania, and individual and collective pro-environmental action among young adults in the U.S.

Ostrom Workshop
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