



# INDIANA UNIVERSITY BLOOMINGTON OSTROM WORKSHOP

## RESEARCH SERIES

### Zhengyan “Ian” Li

*Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Michigan*

Wednesday, April 21: 12:00 – 1:00 pm ET

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



### Alarmed but Unmoved: The Impact of the Provision of Correct Local Environmental Information

Scholars have long been calling for a more informed citizenry, and information disclosure has become a ubiquitous component of public policy. The virtues of information disclosure rest on citizens acting on disclosed information. Through a survey experiment, this article evaluates citizens' responses to local environmental information from the Toxics Release Inventory, a major environmental information disclosure program in the U.S. The results suggest that although biases exist, individuals largely adjust their concern for self and family and sense of personal obligation to act based on the new information relative to their prior knowledge. The information, however, has no impact on preferences and behavioral intentions. This study indicates that information disclosure can be effective and potentially help individuals make better choices, but more needs to be done to spur actions. It also contributes to the understanding of the relationships among political knowledge, information, attitudes, and preferences.

**Zhengyan “Ian” Li** is a postdoctoral fellow at the Ross School of Business and School for Environment and Sustainability at the University of Michigan. He graduated from Indiana University's O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs with a doctoral degree in Public Affairs in 2020. His research explores the interactions among regulators, business, and the public in the implementation of environmental policy. He studies environmental enforcement and compliance, environmental attitudes, and environmental justice.

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