Does the History of the Commons Repeat Itself? Building a Taxonomy of Institutions for Collective Action to Study Their Spread and Resilience Over Time and Space

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Thursday, April 21, 2022: 3:00 – 4:00 pm ET. Reception to follow
Attend in-person at 513 N. Park Ave. or via Zoom
https://iu.zoom.us/j/2395327669

Over the past millennium, various institutions for collective action have played a major role in society. The historical commons, mainly restricted to pasture and woodland, are just one of the ‘archetypes’ of organizations whereby resource management and use is done collectively by a (restricted) group of members. Such collective resource management occurs with a wide range of resources in virtually all sectors, leading to social dilemmas to be solved by institutions such as guilds, collective irrigation systems, or fishing collectives. At present, Europe seems to be witnessing a new wave of citizen collectives that addresses problems in food production, healthcare, and energy provision in ways very similar to those developed in the past. How do these institutions relate to each other over time? What makes the modern ones different from those in the past, and how can these differences help us to improve our understanding of how they function? Can such institutions be a viable alternative governance model in our search for sustainable resource management?

Tine De Moor (PhD; Ghent, Antwerp, and London) is professor "Social Enterprise and Institutions for Collective Action" at the department of Business-Society Management at the Rotterdam School of Management (RSM), Erasmus University Rotterdam. De Moor’s research, combined with extensive empirical research and analysis with explicit modelling and a strongly developed theoretical framework, has been published in several books and journals. She is the co-founder of the peer-reviewed journal the International Journal of the Commons. She has also served as a member of the Executive council of the International Association for the Study of the Commons and served as president from 2015-2017.

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