A celebration of life in honor of Lin & Vincent


In his closing remarks, President McRobbie announced that the new School of International and Global Studies, scheduled to begin construction in spring 2013 on the IU Bloomington campus, will include a room dedicated to Lin and Vincent and will house some of their handmade furniture. In conclusion, President McRobbie and Provost Robel unveiled a portrait of Lin Ostrom, painted by IU Professor Emeritus Bonnie Sklarski, that will be on permanent display at the IMU as “the star among stars of women at IU.” A reception immediately followed the ceremony in the auditorium’s grand foyer.

On October 16, fellow Workshoppers from around the world gathered at the IMU for a “Reflections on the Ostroms.” More than 100 attendees came from out of town, including overseas visitors from Canada, Colombia, Germany, Indonesia, Mexico, Nepal, Netherlands, and South Korea. The event provided an opportunity
for speakers to share their professional and/or personal remembrances about Lin and Vincent (see remarks posted on the “Ostrom Memorial Wall” at: http://www.indiana.edu/~workshop/ostrom_memorial_wall.php). The speakers were: John Baden, Dusti Becker, Robert Bish, Salvador Espinosa, Konrad Hagedorn, Charlotte Hess, Larry Kiser, Derek Kauneckis, Sudhir Kodati, Jianguo (Jack) Liu, Anas Malik, David O’Brien, Robert Sain, Edella Schlager, Sarita Soni, Catherine Tucker, and George Varughese. Halfway through the program, PhD student Sergio Villamayor Tomas played an eloquent violin rendition of “You Are My Sunshine.”

Following the “Reflections,” faculty, staff, students, and visitors returned to the Ostrom Workshop to plant a memorial Bur Oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*) tree in the front yard. The tree is part of the IUB Memorial Tree Program and is marked with a dedication plaque: “In Loving Memory of Elinor and Vincent Ostrom from the Workshop Family.”

We extend our utmost gratitude to all who devoted time to attend and participate in the memorial events. Special thanks are also due to numerous staff and departments at IU whose seamless coordination in planning and preparations made for truly memorable events. They include: IU Auditorium; Bonnie Sklarski; Chris Meyer; Communications/Creative Services; IMU Catering and Biddle Hotel; Indiana Daily Student; IUPD; Jacobs School of Music; Media Relations; Office of University Ceremonies; Parking Operations; President’s and Provost’s offices; Radio&TV. Last but not least, the staff of the Ostrom Workshop are also to be commended for their dedication and hard work: Darla, David, Emily, Gayle, Joanna, Julie, Nicole, Patty, and Ray.

(Front page photo by Chet Strange, IDS)
The Workshop was officially renamed in honor of the Ostroms in May 2012.

A plaque sits against the Bur Oak tree planted in memory of Lin and Vincent. (Photo by Steph Langan, IDS)

Workshoppers gather in front of the Ostrom Workshop to plant a tree for Lin and Vincent to celebrate their lives, October 16, 2012. (Photo by Steph Langan, IDS)

Krister Andersson and Arun Agrawal help plant the Bur Oak tree. (Photo by Patty Lezotte)

Unveiling of Lin’s portrait by President Michael McRobbie and Provost Lauren Robel, October 15, 2012. (Photo by Chris Meyer, IU)
The special issue/symposium of *Publius: The Journal of Federalism* will honor Elinor and Vincent Ostrom with both theoretical and empirical articles that reflect critically and/or build on the Ostroms’ work in relation to the study of federalism. For example, what contributions did Elinor and Vincent make to the study of federalism in the United States and elsewhere? In what ways did their work shed light on our understandings of the theory or practice of federalism and/or provide bases for fruitful empirical work? In what ways is the concept of polycentricity compatible and incompatible with concepts of federalism? In what ways is the concept of constitutional choice compatible and incompatible with public choice approaches to federalism, and how is constitutional choice relevant to contemporary federalism? How well does federalism fare in the management of common-pool resources? To what extent have the Ostroms’ contributions been of enduring relevance? Are parts of their work in need of resurrection? Alternately, articles can be new empirical studies that build upon or test theories derived from the Ostroms’ work.


Elinor was well known for her work on the governance of common-pool resources and the theory of polycentricity. Her many publications included such notable books as *Governing the Commons: The Evolution of Institutions for Collective Action* (1990) and *Understanding Institutional Diversity* (2005), as well as more recently “Beyond Markets and States: Polycentric Governance of Complex Economic Systems,” *American Economic Review* 100 (June 2010). In April 2012, *Time* magazine named Elinor one of the 100 most influential people in the world.


If you wish to contribute an article for this *Publius* issue, please send a 150–250 word abstract to John Kincaid at meynerc@lafayette.edu no later than December 1, 2012. Acceptances and regrets for manuscript submissions will be sent by January 4, 2013. Kindly note that an invitation to submit a manuscript will not guarantee acceptance. Publishable manuscripts will be due to John Kincaid by June 15, 2013. After a preliminary internal review and possible requests for revision, manuscripts will be submitted directly to *Publius* for its regular peer-review process no later than August 1, 2013.
Elinor Ostrom’s Work on Common Property and Its Contribution to the Theory and Practice of Conservation and Sustainable Natural Resource Management

The Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP) of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), in partnership with the International Association for the Study of the Commons (IASC), invite contributions for:

A Special Issue of Policy Matters

Editorial team:
Jim Robson, Iain Davidson-Hunt, Aroha Te Pareake Mead, Alyne Delaney, Lapologang Magole, Gabriela Lichtenstein

The Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP)—Theme on Sustainable Livelihoods (TSL)—of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) plans to devote an entire issue of its flagship Policy Matters journal to the outreach and impact of Dr. Elinor Ostrom’s groundbreaking research on common property theory. This edition would provide commentaries building on Dr. Ostrom’s analysis and, where possible, provide case studies demonstrating the practical application of her theoretical contributions. We hope to organize a session or side event at the upcoming IASC conference in Japan (June 2013) to coincide with this special issue.

At this time we are soliciting expressions of interest and abstracts from those keen to make linkages between Dr. Ostrom’s work and their scholarship, policy, or practice. We anticipate that essays between 2500–5000 words, as well as more creative print presentations such as poetry, artwork, photo essays etc., would be undertaken by people who can reflect upon how they have utilized Dr. Ostrom’s work in their scholarship or applied work. This would include voices from academia, communities, government agencies, development agencies and non-governmental organizations (local – international). While we indicate some possible themes below, we are also open to others that are not listed:

- Profile of the Professional and Scholarly Achievements of Dr. Ostrom
- Contribution of Dr. Ostrom to Commons Scholarship
- Contribution of Dr. Ostrom’s Theory to the Practice of Conservation and SNRM
- Natural Resource Management (Fisheries, Forestry, Rangelands, Agriculture)
- Conservation (Protected Areas, Biodiversity)
- Indigenous Peoples
- Knowledge

Abstracts (in English, Spanish, or French) of no more than 300 words should be submitted to Jim Robson (umroboj@cc.umanitoba.ca) by January 15, 2013.
THE OSTROM WORKSHOP is continuing to explore the idea of active fund-raising for programming and initiatives. Historically, the Workshop’s endowment accounts with the Indiana University Foundation have been quietly receiving donations without a lot of fanfare or effort. The principal donors were, in fact, Elinor and Vincent Ostrom. The Ostrom estate settlement will complete the establishment of the Workshop “endowments” with six separate accounts with the IUF. Most of these accounts are restricted to donations from the Ostrom’s estate, but the Tocqueville Fund for the Study of Human Institutions is an open account that anyone can donate to.

Gifts to this account will be used to support the study of human institutions as exemplified in the work of Alexis de Tocqueville within the Ostrom Workshop, to enrich instruction, provide aid to deserving students, expand services to graduates, support research, stimulate professional growth of the faculty, and to meet other goals in the study of human institutions. As of October 2012, the current balance of the fund is $2,513,709. To quietly recognize donations, we designed an Ostrom Workshop coffee mug (inset photo) that we are sending to anyone who donates $100 or more to the Tocqueville Fund. We have already sent thank you’s to past donors from January 2011 to the present. For future donations, we will continue to send thank you’s on a monthly basis. For further information on donations to the Ostrom Workshop, please contact codirector Burney Fischer (bufische@indiana.edu).


On July 26–29, 2012, a group of 17 scholars associated with the Workshop over the years came to Bloomington to explore the Ostroms’ contribution to understanding the nature and design of free and responsible communities. Designed and directed by former Workshoper Bobbi Herzberg and funded by The Liberty Fund Inc. of Indianapolis, the conference became an opportunity to critically consider the depth and range of the Workshop school of thought and how it has developed these last 40 years. When originally scheduled, Lin was an invited conferee, but she and Vincent’s passing one month before the conference gave the meeting a special meaning as participants used the readings as a launchpad for weighing the Ostroms’ scholarship. We both celebrated and challenged their contributions to our understanding of liberty and responsibility in polycentric societies. A few tears, many beers, and some great stories made the event most memorable. Attendees included Nobelist Vernon Smith, Kenneth Shepsle of Harvard, Michael Munger of Duke, Pete Boettke and Paul Dragos Aligica of George Mason University, Pat Lynch and Doug Den Uyl of Liberty Fund, and Workshoppers Rick Wilson, Daniel Cole, Barb Allen, Bill Blomquist, Mike McGinnis, Fil Sabetti, Mark Sproule-Jones, Roger Parks, and Edella Schlager.
During his visit in the United States, Li plans to observe the activities of homeowner volunteers in Bloomington and develop policy recommendations for homeowners in China to self-manage their properties effectively. Li plans to apply Ostrom’s theory of “Common Pool Resources” to explore the decision-making processes of geothermal electric energy power production development and its effects on the water basin of Mount Amiata in central Italy. The principal aim of his visit at the Ostrom Workshop is to develop a deeper understanding of the IAD framework, explore the possibility of methodological variations, and apply this to his case studies.

Economic development and its effects on the water basin of Mount Amiata in central Italy. His PhD dissertation is about institutional analysis using network analysis for comparing different institutions (formal and informal) responsible for controlling nature resources at the Brazilian Amazon, specifically at the State of Amazonas. At the Ostrom Workshop, Tiago plans to build a framework for his thesis that integrates institutional policy evaluation, design, and implementation. He is especially interested in the relation between participatory forms of human governance and individuals’ commitment to the goals and rules inherent in such institutional settings.

**Daniel DeCaro** (Aug 2010–May 2013), PhD, is a postdoctoral researcher at the Ostrom Workshop and assistant director for IU’s Interdisciplinary Experimental Laboratory. There, Daniel is working to apply his formal expertise in Applied Social and Cognitive Psychology to institutional policy evaluation, design, and implementation. He is especially interested in the relation between participatory forms of human governance and individuals’ commitment to the goals and rules inherent in such institutional settings.

**Irene Iniesta-Arandia** (Sept 24–Dec 23, 2012) is a PhD candidate in Ecology and Environmental Sciences at the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid (UAM). She is a member of the Social-Ecological Systems Laboratory at the Ecology Department of UAM. She holds an MSc in Biology at Lunds Universitet and an MSc in Ecology at UAM. In her PhD research, she focuses in the ecosystem services provided by semi-arid watersheds and the formal and informal institutions behind its management. She uses different methodological approaches with a special emphasis on social network analysis. At the Ostrom Workshop, she wants to develop her work on the structures of collaboration networks among different water users and municipalities in water management.

**Jampel Dell’Angelo** (academic year) is enrolled in a double PhD program in International Cooperation and Sustainable Development at Sapienza Università di Roma–CIRPS and in Environmental Sciences at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona–ICTA. He holds a MS in Environment and Development at the London School of Economics, a Master II in Energy and Environment Management at Università di Roma La Sapienza, a Graduate Certificate in International Health at Curtin University of Technology, and a BS in Environmental Economics at Università degli Studi di Siena. In his PhD research, Jampel applies, and modifies, the Institutional Analysis and Development (IAD) framework to two different case studies: (1) watersheds preservation and resettlement of Tibetan nomads in Qinghai’s rangelands and (2) the decision-making processes of geothermal electric energy power production development and its effects on the water basin of Mount Amiata in central Italy. The principal aim of his visit at the Ostrom Workshop is to develop a deeper understanding of the IAD framework, explore the possibility of methodological variations, and apply this to his case studies.

**Li Guoqing** (Aug 2012–Aug 2013) is the director of the Urban Policy and Urban Culture Research Center, Institute of Urban & Environmental Studies, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. The center conducts research for the central and municipal governments in China and recommends policies on social development and urban planning. Li received his PhD from Keio University in Japan. He is currently a Fulbright Scholar and plans to work on a project entitled “System and Practice of Homeowners’ Self-management in United States.” In recent decades, homeownership has become an important aspect of family life for most families, particularly middle-class families, in China. Li plans to examine how American homeowners establish the board of homeowner directors in local communities to implement effective management of their properties. Li plans to apply Ostrom’s theory of “Common Pool Resources” to explore the issue. During his visit in the United States, Li plans to observe the activities of homeowner volunteers in Bloomington and develop policy recommendations for homeowners in China to self-manage their properties effectively.

**Jesper Larsson** (Oct 2010–Oct 2012), Department of Economics, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences in Uppsala, received a PhD degree in Agrarian History in October 2009. In his research about agricultural systems, he has used theories about the management of common-pool resources. He would like to develop the knowledge of commons and common-pool resources from a historical perspective. One goal is to describe and compare the complex mix of organizations governing common-pool resources in the Nordic countries from 1500 to 1850.

**Jesper Larsson** (Oct 2010–Oct 2012), Department of Economics, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences in Uppsala, received a PhD degree in Agrarian History in October 2009. In his research about agricultural systems, he has used theories about the management of common-pool resources. He would like to develop the knowledge of commons and common-pool resources from a historical perspective. One goal is to describe and compare the complex mix of organizations governing common-pool resources in the Nordic countries from 1500 to 1850.

**Tiago da Silva Jacaúna** (academic year) is a PhD candidate in Social Sciences at the University of Campinas (UNICAMP, Universidade Estadual de Campinas), Brazil. He holds an MS in Sociology and a BS in Social Sciences at the Federal University of Amazonas (UFAM, Universidade Federal do Amazonas), and a BS in Economics at the Laureate International Universities (UNINORTE, Centro Universitário do Norte). His PhD dissertation is about institutional analysis using network analysis for comparing different institutions (formal and informal) responsible for controlling nature resources at the Brazilian Amazon, specifically at the State of Amazonas. At the Ostrom Workshop, Tiago plans to build a framework for his thesis that integrates institutional analysis with social network analysis.

**Timor Sharan** (Oct 5–Nov 15, 2012) is a PhD candidate, Department of Politics, University of Essex, UK. His research focuses on the political economy of network politics in post-2001 state-building in Afghanistan. His thesis explores how networked elites came to be constituted in the post-2001 state and how contestation, cooptation and conflict between competing elites over the state shaped the nature of the post-2001 statebuilding. Timor holds an MPhil in Development Studies from the University of Cambridge and a BA in International Relations and Politics from the University of Essex. He has worked more than four years for different donor agencies and research policy organizations in Afghanistan including
DFID and USAID. During his stay, Timor will develop further his theoretical framework on the complex relationship between informal networked elites and formal institutions of the state in post–2001 Afghanistan.

Keith Taylor (academic year) is a PhD candidate at the University of Illinois in the Department of Human and Community Development (PhD expected Fall 2012). Keith’s research emphasis is on the utilization of the cooperative institutional model for community development and democratization. His recent research project has explored the effect wind energy ownership models on local level communities, and how communities might harness such projects for enhancing development outcomes. Keith’s efforts at the Ostrom Workshop are focused on plying Bloomington School thinking toward the creation of a coordinated research agenda on the US cooperative model.

Zhu Yukun (Fall 2012) is a PhD candidate in Public Finance at Xi’an Jiaotong University in China. His research interest is to evaluate economic and social efficiency of environmental policies and strategies in China and undertake a comparison study with those in post-communist European countries, aiming to pursue the institutional constraints influencing governance of environment and natural resources in China. He has undertaken research on the interest’s conflicts between the governments, mining companies and the residents during the process of resources extraction from the perspective of property rights allocation of mineral resource. During his stay, he will work on one of his PhD papers, analyzing institutions and policies to carry out the principle of justice and efficiency during the formulation and implementation process of the environmental laws.

Short-term visitors, Fall 2012

Dr. Julia Duany (August 13–September 13), Undersecretary for Ministry Parliamentary Affairs, Republic of Sudan, Government of Southern Sudan, Juba

Hon. Dr. Wal Duany (August 13–September 13), Member of Parliament, Republic of Sudan, The Southern Sudan, Legislative Assembly, Juba, Sudan

Prof. Dr. Konrad Hagedorn (October 11–31), Department of Agricultural Economics, Humboldt University, Berlin, Germany

Gabriela Landolt (September 23–October 6), Institute of Social Anthropology, University of Bern, Switzerland

Dr. Amos Sawyer (August 20–October 1), Affiliated Research Associate, Ostrom Workshop

Research grant award

The National Urban and Community Forestry Challenge Cost-Share grant was awarded to IU’s Center for the Study of Institutions, Population, and Environmental Change (CIPEC). The principal investigator is Burnell C. Fischer, clinical professor in the School of Public and Environmental Affairs and codirector of The Vincent and Elinor Ostrom Workshop in Political Theory and Policy Analysis. Coprincipal investigators for the grant are PhD students Jessica Vogt, Sarah Mincey, and Shannon Lea Watkins.

The grant, titled “Trees and People—A Two-Way Street,” will allow Fischer and his colleagues to expand urban forestry research they have been conducting in Indianapolis to include Detroit, St. Louis, Philadelphia, Atlanta, and Des Moines, Iowa.

For more information, see http://newsinfo.iu.edu/news/page/normal/23328.html.
IN 2011, A TEAM OF MORE THAN 30 RESEARCHERS LED by Elinor Ostrom developed a proposal to create a Center on Governance and Sustainability of Social-Ecological Systems (COGS) that was submitted to the US National Science Foundation ‘Science and Technology Centers’ (STC) competition. The proposal passed through several successive rounds of review, culminating in a site visit review at Indiana University in October 2012. It was an intense review that involved many heroics by Ostrom Workshop staff and the science team. This site visit review process constitutes the final round before NSF decides which of 11 remaining centers still in competition will be funded. The $25 million proposed project involves participants from Arizona State University, University of Colorado, Duke University, Indiana University, University of Michigan, Princeton University, and the European Group for the Study of Socio-Ecological and Socio-Technical Systems (SETS Consortium).

The overall objective of COGS would be to synthesize data on environmental governance and produce transformative scientific breakthroughs to enable decision makers, policy analysts, and citizens to determine which governance arrangements are most effective in promoting the long-term sustainability of critical resource systems. But if funded, the success of COGS would rely on linking to the larger scientific community, including the robust network of Ostrom Workshop-connected researchers. COGS would develop the International Repository for Governance and Sustainability (IRGoS) to facilitate data analysis and enable the scientific community to analyze a rich database of SES governance cases and also contribute data to this repository. IRGoS would also provide a mechanism to reach stakeholders/practitioners and develop educational tools targeted at 6–12 grade, undergraduate, and graduate student levels.

The National Science Foundation has not previously funded a Science and Technology Center that had a substantial social-science emphasis. But we hope the time is right for such a center given the significant global problems related to natural resource management. The team was excited to reach the site visit stage of review, although it has been bittersweet given Lin’s passing earlier this year. Lin was obviously an intellectual pioneer in the field of governance of common-pool resources and the analysis of social-ecological systems. Her seminal and lasting work in this area (particularly the development of the Social-Ecological Systems [SES] framework) underpins much of what COGS proposes to accomplish. However, the COGS team (and network of Ostrom Workshop-connected researchers) remains inspired by her work and is excited by the prospect of such a center to pursue these critical scientific challenges. NSF will make final funding decisions between now and June 2013.
Fall 2012

AUG 27 • Burney Fischer and Tom Evans, codirectors, roundtable session


SEPT 10 • Mark Lubell, professor, Department of Environmental Science and Policy, University of California, “Ecology of Games”


SEPT 17 • Frank Page, professor of economics, IUB, “The Co-Evolution of Network Structure, Strategic Behavior, and Stationary Equilibrium Dynamics”

SEPT 19 • Graham Epstein, PhD student, Ostrom Workshop, “Towards an Interdisciplinary Social-Ecological Systems (SES) Framework”

SEPT 24 • Lloyd Orr, professor emeritus of economics, IUB, “Immigration, Wages, and a Sustainable Economic Future—Immigration as a Moral Issue”

SEPT 26 • Gabriela Landolt, doctoral student in social anthropology, Universität Bern Institut für Sozialanthropologie, Switzerland, “Alpine Common Property Institutions under Change: Conditions for Successful and Unsuccessful Collective Action of Alpine Farmers in the Canton Graubünden of Switzerland”

OCT 1 • Brett Frischmann and Katherine Strandburg, professors of law, New York University School of Law, “Commons in the Cultural Environment”

OCT 3 • Jampel Dell’Angelo, visiting scholar, “A Great Transformation: Resettlement Policies, Institutions and Metabolic Patterns in the Tibetan Rangelands”

OCT 8 • Travis Selmier III, PhD candidate, Department of Political Science, IUB, “Why ‘Club’ Goods Have Proliferated in Investment Finance”


OCT 22 • Venelin Ganev, professor of political science, Miami University of Ohio, “Mores and Institutions: Tocquevillian Insights and Postcommunist Democratizations”

OCT 24 • Sergio Villamayor Tomas, PhD student, Ostrom Workshop, “Understanding Robustness to Disturbance through the Theory of the Commons: A Qualitative Comparative Analysis of Responses to Disturbances in Five Spanish Irrigation Systems”

OCT 26 • Olivier Zunz, Commonwealth Professor of History, University of Virginia, “Was Tocqueville Ever American?”

OCT 29 • Stephanie Kane, associate professor, Department of Criminal Justice, IUB, “Where Rivers Meet the Sea, the Political Ecology of Water”

OCT 31 • Timor Sharan, visiting scholar, “How Could a Network Approach Shed Light on our Understanding of the Nature of State in Post-Conflict Situations?”

NOV 5 • Peter Grossman, professor and Efroymson Chair, Department of Economics, Butler University, “US Energy Policy and the Pursuit of Failure”

NOV 7 • Robin Craig, professor and associate dean in environmental programs, Florida State University, “Public Health, Private Land, and the Police Power”

NOV 12 • Abigail York, assistant professor, School of Human Evolution and Social Change, Arizona State University, “Private Provisioning of Public Adaptation Goods: The Case of Irrigated Agriculture in Central Arizona”

NOV 14 • Ursula Kreitmair, PhD student, Ostrom Workshop, “Information and Common Pool Resources: An Experimental Study of Conditional Cooperation”

NOV 26 • William Bianco, professor, Department of Political Science, IUB; Jeffrey Hill, professor, Department of Political Science, Northeastern Illinois University; and Robert Landis, technical manager, senior engineer, NASA Goddard-Wallops Flight Facility, “Getting Along On-Orbit: Behavioral and Institutional Underpinnings of U.S.-Russian Joint Operations of the ISS”

NOV 28 • Irene Iniesta, visiting scholar, “Barriers and Bridges for Collective Action in Mediterranean Semi-Arid Watersheds: A Network Analysis of Social-Ecological Systems”

DEC 3 • Mark Kanazawa, professor of economics, Carleton College, “Efficiency and/or Fairness? Understanding the Origins of Prior Appropriation in Early California”

DEC 5 • Josef Woldense, PhD student, Department of Political Science, IUB, “The Relational Nature of the Coup D’état”

Colloquium papers are available online at: http://www.indiana.edu/~workshop/colloquia/colloquiumseries/index.php
Y673 seminar continues at the Ostrom Workshop

Each fall, for many years, Lin Ostrom taught the “Seminar on Institutional Analysis and Development: Micro” (Y673) for graduate students and visiting scholars at the Workshop. She was scheduled to teach it again this fall. In her absence, Dan Cole (Law) and Armando Razo (Political Science) picked up the reins, organized and ran the seminar, which includes ten first-year PhD students from Political Science, SPEA, Anthropology, and Geography, along with visiting scholars (professors, post-docs, and graduate students) from a half-dozen countries, ranging from Italy to China. The seminar’s focus is on training in Ostrom Workshop frameworks, theories, models, and principles. It concludes, as in past semesters, with the mini-conference, whereby students write papers that are presented and critiqued by Workshop affiliated faculty, postdocs, and more senior graduate students. “Lin’s Seminar,” as the participants call it, will continue to be taught in the Ostrom Workshop every fall.

In addition to Lin’s class, we also hosted a “Public Organization and Management” (V671) class from SPEA taught by Professor James Perry.
Officers and Workshop Commons scholars of the International Association for the Study of the Commons (IASC) gathered for breakfast and an informal meeting at the Runcible Spoon in Bloomington, IN, on October 15, 2012. President Susan Buck, forthcoming president Leticia Merino, past president Meg McKean, along with members Xavier Basurto, Ashwini Chhatre, Charlotte Hess, Marco Janssen, Esther Mwangi, Ron Oakerson, Edella Schlager, and Frank van Laerhoven—in town for the Ostrom memorials—met to discuss the future of the association. Topics ranged from the importance of continuing the Commons Digest, scheduling more predictable biennial international (global) conferences, regional conferences where regional networking is promoted,¹ as well as thematic conferences like the one held in Louvain-La Neuve (Belgium) on New Commons last September. Ways to do better fund-raising and marketing of the association, creating incentives to members, building relations, and learning from other associations with similar perspectives as the Workshop and the Resilience Alliance were also part of the discussion.

One of the suggestions during the meeting was that IASC market itself more visibly in its ability to offer policy leadership. We witnessed such leadership at the last 2011 conference in Hyderabad where Lin Ostrom, Ruth Meinzen-Dick, and the conference president Jagdeesh Rao met with the Prime Minister and the Minister of Forests of India to discuss legal changes facing Indian commons. Likewise, during the 2008 conference in Cheltenham, UK (that occurred not long after the enactment of the Commons Act of 2006), IASC members were interviewed and an article about the importance of the commons appeared in the prestigious journal The Economist (August 2008). Based on these types of examples, those in the planning meeting urged better marketing of the association’s influence with, perhaps, an online Guide to the Commons as well as online courses on the IASC website along with the International Journal of the Commons and the Commons Digest.

One of the most relevant new projects of IASC is the creation of an award to honor and promote the legacy of the IASC founding president. The Elinor Ostrom Award on Collective Governance of Common Resources will soon be announced and is planned to be delivered for the first time at the XIV IASC Global Conference in Mount Fuji, Japan, in June 2013. Fortunately, we were able to discuss the project of the award with Lin last May and receive her approval. This initiative will award young scholars as well as practitioners from all over the world; call for nominations will be launched in December 2012. The Ostrom Award is a joint initiative of IASC, the IFRI research program, the Center for the Study of Institutional Diversity at Arizona State University, UNESCO, CAPRI, CIFOR, the National Commission for Biodiversity of Mexico, and the Universidad of los Andes, Colombia.

¹ To date, IASC has held thirteen global conferences in Canada, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Norway, the Philippines, United Kingdom, United States, and Zimbabwe as well as nine regional conferences in Africa, Asia, Europe, and North America.
Books and Monographs


Human-environment interaction (HEI) provides a framework that brings together scholarship sharing both disciplinary depth and interdisciplinary scope to examine past, present, and future social and environmental change in different parts of the world. This volume brings senior and junior scholars together, and in so doing connects these historically influential traditions to new and cutting-edge approaches that give us a glimpse into current and future trends in interdisciplinary science of human-environment interaction. The volume offers a microcosm of contemporary HEI research in terms of thematic, theory and methodology, level of analysis, and regional coverage. Drawing on research from eleven countries across four continents, the 16 chapters in the volume bring perspectives from various specialties in anthropology and human ecology, institutional analysis, historical and political ecology, geography, archaeology, and land change sciences. The four sections of the volume reflect complementary approaches to HEI: health and adaptation approaches, land change and landscape management approaches, institutional and political-ecology approaches, and historical and archaeological approaches.


This book employs the theory of polycentricity, a system with several centers as an analytical concept to explain the multilayered international environmental governance of river basins. It introduces a new methodological framework to deconstruct and investigate the dynamics of citizens, states and non-state actors in world politics via the context of river basin governance. The methodology is tested through in-depth field-based case studies, illustrating how local citizens and industries in the Mekong and Rhine river basins participate in transnational environmental governance at both local and international levels.

The methodology is tested through in-depth field-based case studies, illustrating how local citizens and industries in the Mekong and Rhine river basins participate in transnational environmental governance at both local and international levels. Tun Myint expertly presents both a methodology and theory to conceive polycentricity of world politics as a major intellectual milestone in theorizing world politics. Providing nuanced details of cases showing the challenges and feasibilities of incorporating multiple actors into a governance framework, the book provides careful analysis into the power of non-state actors.


The use of open-source software (OSS)—readable software source code that can be copied, modified, and distributed freely—has expanded dramatically in recent years. In this book, the product of the first large-scale empirical study to look at social, technical, and institutional aspects of OSS, Charles Schweik and Robert English examine factors that lead to success in OSS projects and work toward a better understanding of Internet-based collaboration. Drawing on literature from many disciplines and using a theoretical framework developed for the study of environmental commons, Schweik and English examine stages of OSS development, presenting multivariate statistical models of success and abandonment. Schweik and English argue that analyzing the conditions of OSS successes may also inform Internet collaborations in fields beyond software engineering, particularly those that aim to solve complex technical, social, and political problems.


Congratulations to Sue Crawford, professor of political science and international relations, Creighton University, who was elected to the Nebraska State Legislature this month.


Darla Kuh, Events Scheduler/Project Coordinator at the Ostrom Workshop, resigned her position effective November 23 to accept a position at IUB Kelley School of Business.

Congratulations to Patty Lezotte, who celebrated her 35-year anniversary with Indiana University/Ostrom Workshop on August 22.

Charlie Schweik has started a new “Workshop on the Study of the Knowledge Commons” (http://tinyurl.com/aoazjza) at the University of Massachusetts as a tribute to Lin and Vincent. At this time, it is not a formal center, but it will have a web presence, and has already attracted twenty people in various disciplines.

Congratulations to Nicole Todd, who celebrated her 10 years of service at Indiana University/Ostrom Workshop on November 6.

PhD defenses:
Gustavo Garcia-Lopez – July 6
Gwen Arnold – July 19
Sergio Villamayor Tomas – November 16
Sarah K. Mincey – scheduled for November 28