WOW5 conference

The Workshop on the Ostrom Workshop (WOW5) conference website is now up and running at: http://www.indiana.edu/~wow5/. (Note: the Online Registration Form will be available in January 2014.)

The number of Working Group submissions surpassed our expectations (tentatively 49). You can see a complete list of working groups, along with coordinators and their e-mail addresses, on the conference website. Thank you to all who submitted; the deadline has passed and we are no longer accepting submissions.

For those scheduled to participate in a Working Group, we require Abstract submissions by December 6, 2013 (via the Online Abstract Submission Form). Individuals wishing to join an existing Working Group need to contact the Working Group coordinator directly. Unaffiliated Abstract submissions (via the same form) are also strongly encouraged; they will be considered for possible placement in a working group session by the Program Committee. For additional information, please see the Working Groups web page.

Paper submissions associated with presentations are welcome, but they are not required. If you would like your paper to be part of the WOW5 materials, please follow the formatting instructions on the Papers web page and submit via e-mail to wow5@indiana.edu by April 1, 2014.

We will continue to post updates to the conference website as information becomes available, so please check back regularly! For any and all questions, please send an e-mail to: wow5@indiana.edu.
Polycentric Circles

is published biannually in May & November. We encourage current and former Workshoppers to submit information regarding research projects, awards, publications, announcements, etc., for the newsletter. Please submit items to the editor, Patty Lezotte (zielinsk@indiana.edu).

Submit your items by APRIL 4, 2014, for inclusion in the May issue of the newsletter.


Help keep our records up to date! Send address changes to: workshop@indiana.edu.

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Watch Colloquia Live!
Online Streaming Now Available

We are pleased to announce that as of September 23, 2013, the Ostrom Workshop will be live streaming all Monday colloquia presentations (depending on the agreement of presenters). All presentations will be available for viewing at: http://www.indiana.edu/~video/stream/liveflash.html?filename=Colloquia.

All live-streamed events will be stored on Indiana University’s servers, and archive stream links are available (alongside the presenter’s name) on the Colloquium Series web page (http://www.indiana.edu/~workshop/colloquia/colloquiumseries/index.php) so that anyone who is unable to watch the event live will be able to watch it later. We are very excited to offer this new technology by which Workshoppers located all over the world can keep tabs on what is happening in the Workshop on a weekly basis. More to come as we continue to explore this new Workshop technology.

In the meantime, we welcome your feedback regarding the usage of both live and archived colloquia presentations. How often are you using the service? Are the links readily accessible? What improvements can we make? Send comments to: workshop@indiana.edu.

Three finalists for executive director of Ostrom Workshop to visit campus

On November 6, the Office of the Vice Provost for Research at IU Bloomington announced three finalists in the search for a new Executive Director of the Ostrom Workshop:

Lee Alston (professor of economics and environmental studies and director of the Program on Institutions in the Institute of Behavioral Science at the University of Colorado at Boulder)

Catherine Eckel (the Sara and John Lindsey Professor in Liberal Arts and director of the Behavioral Economics and Policy Program at Texas A&M University)

Claudia Pahl-Wostl (professor of resources management and director of the Institute of Environmental Systems Research at the University of Osnabruck in Germany)

Finalists will visit the campus in November and December to make public presentations and meet with faculty, staff, and students. Read the press release at: http://news.indiana.edu/releases/2013/11/ostrom-workshop-finalists.shtml. For more information on the candidates, visit the website for the executive director search at: http://www.indiana.edu/~workshop/about/search_and_screen.php.

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Barbara Allen announces funding campaign to complete documentary on the Ostroms and the Workshop: Actual Worlds, Possible Futures

In January 2014, Barbara Allen will begin a one-year sabbatical to finish work on a film project about Lin and Vincent Ostrom that she began nine years ago. For those of you who don’t know Barb, she is the Ada M. Harrison Professor of the Social Sciences at Carleton College in Minnesota, Senior Research Fellow at the Ostrom Workshop, and a member of the Workshop Advisory Committee. She is the editor of Vincent Ostrom’s two-volume, The Quest to Understand Human Affairs and coeditor (with Filippo Sabetti and Mark Sproule-Jones) of two volumes on Vincent and his colleagues’ work on constitutional development. She is also an award-winning documentary filmmaker. And, this month, she is starting a crowd-sourced fund-raising campaign so she can finish a feature-length film on Lin and Vincent and their work around the world. Here is her story about the origins of a film about the Ostroms:

Nine years ago, Lin asked me to join Vincent and her at their cabin on the Manitoulin Island. Vincent was about to turn 86, and we were planning a conference that would take place in his honor the following year. Lin was finishing work on Understanding Institutional Diversity, while Vincent and I developed ideas for new expanded editions of The Political Theory of a Compound Republic. Having first started working with the Ostroms when I was 19, I thought I understood their work well, but that July I discovered how much I had yet to learn.

On the island, I started interviewing Lin and Vincent to understand better the lives they led and ideas they generated—lives and ideas that have touched people on every continent. That was July 2005; by January 2006, I had purchased a professional video camera and had started filming interviews and moments at home with them—footage that I hoped would one day become the documentary I am now making. In October 2011, Lin asked me to continue the film project, bringing in interviews with her and many others who have taken Workshop ideas to spaces she had never dreamed of when she and Vincent started studying urban services, water, fish, forests—polycentricity and the commons years ago. At this point, I’ve already shot nearly one hundred hours of film and gathered scores of photos and artifacts.

I think of Lin and Vincent’s work and lives as a love story that became a global gift. Over their half-century relationship, they built an enduring, loving marriage; an influential intellectual partnership; and a wide-ranging movement of people dedicated—as the Ostroms were—to addressing the enormous problems that plague human societies: climate change, ocean pollution, deforestation, etc. Their ideas about the “Big Issues” stemmed from studying the basic challenges that all communities face: Where do we get our water? How do we heat our homes? Who makes sure we don’t take more than our share or more than we need? Who will build our roads? How do we make sure everyone contributes to the group? How do we pass on the lessons we learn to the next generation? Actual Worlds, Possible Futures tells this story in five lessons:

Lesson 1: “Starting from Here” emphasizes the roles of artisanship and science in the design of our communities—including the intimate association of a marriage. The second lesson, “Diagnosing the Reasons for Our Failures,” emphasizes learning by improving our ability to understand our failures. Borrowing from one of Lin’s famous statements, Lesson 3: “No Panaceas—Each Solution Brings New Problems” shows that we can never create an ultimate “solution” to any problem. We learn from Lesson 4: “Little Is Straight or Narrow” that the human condition is complex and that explanations of that complexity will, necessarily, also be complex. The fifth lesson, Lin’s oft-repeated mantra, “We Can, We Must,” serves as a call to action for human beings to address their problems by working from experience, testing ideas, diagnosing their failures, making changes, and trying again.

I hope you will join me when I use the “commons” approach of crowd-sourced funding to finish the film. My aim is to raise at least $100,000. I am also submitting grant proposals because films are very expensive to make. With your help in a film-funding commons, I will be able to show grant agencies that we are a community who wants to see such a film come into existence. If we can raise more than $100,000, that would mean that I can spend more of my sabbatical actually finishing the film and less time trying to fund it! With your help, I will be able to accomplish this goal and get the film out into the world where it can have an impact in the community, in the classroom, and in the halls of government. In a few weeks, you will receive an e-mail that talks about a fundraising plan, a plan that Lin and Vincent might see as another step in building a commons that can benefit the commons. It is called Indiegogo (http://www.Indiegogo.com). When you see the notice, please go to the site to donate, and pass along word of this project to anyone you think might be interested. If you have any questions about the film, write me at: ostromthestmovie@carleton.edu. Together, we can make this film!
Now, for the first time, undergraduate honors students from IU’s Hutton Honors College, SPEA, and other social science departments can enroll in a seminar structured around Elinor Ostrom’s most important contributions to understanding (and sometimes even solving) social and environmental problems. The seminar on “Rules, Games, and Society” (E400/V450) will teach students about social and ecological problems that can only be avoided (or reduced) by collective (or group) action.

The course will be taught at the Ostrom Workshop by two of Lin’s close collaborators—Dan Cole (Law, SPEA) and Burney Fischer (SPEA)—and structured around a new textbook authored by two more of her close collaborators, Marty Anderies and Marco Janssen. Their book, *Sustaining the Commons* (2013) is freely available on the Internet under a Creative Commons license. The text will be supplemented with readings from some of Lin’s own writings.

Additional information about the course can be found at: [http://www.indiana.edu/~workshop/courses/E400_V450_Spring2014_NewCourse-Announcement.pdf](http://www.indiana.edu/~workshop/courses/E400_V450_Spring2014_NewCourse-Announcement.pdf).

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**Call for Participants**

**Ostrom Oral History Project**

Were you a student of Elinor and/or Vincent Ostrom? Did you work with or collaborate with one of them at Indiana University, the Workshop, or through another venue? Were you a friend of the Ostroms or otherwise significantly impacted by them personally or professionally? If you answered “yes” to any of these questions, please consider sharing and preserving your firsthand perspective by participating in an oral history interview. A collaborative project through IU’s Center for the Study of History and Memory hopes to conduct oral history interviews to preserve the professional and personal impacts of Elinor and Vincent Ostrom. Plans are being made to facilitate interviews during the upcoming WOW5 conference. If you would like to participate or have other information, please contact Sara Clark at clarksc@indiana.edu.

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**New Spring 2014 Course for IU Honors Undergrads**

“Rules, Games, and Society”

Stay connected with the Ostrom Workshop’s activities by following us on:  

@Ostrom_Workshop

Ostrom Workshop in Political Theory and Policy Analysis
On November 1, 2013, a senior high school for office management and services in Berlin named itself after Elinor Ostrom in an official ceremony attended by about 150 students, teachers, and selected guests from other schools, universities, and research institutes. Among the speakers opening the ceremony was Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Konrad Hagedorn, head of the Division of Resource Economics and director of the Berlin Institute of Cooperative Studies at Humboldt University Berlin, Germany, who has collaborated with the Ostroms and the Workshop for many years. In his speech, he honored Elinor Ostrom’s life’s work in political and economic sciences, and in particular her dedication to support young scholars in conducting research, and to explore new ways of scientific collaboration among disciplines. Another speaker, Prof. Dr. Ottmar Edenhofer, vice president of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK), described in how far Elinor Ostrom’s work influenced his research about global climate change and stressed the importance of her scientific discoveries to secure global commons. Prior to the name-giving ceremony, Prof. Hagedorn and research assistants from the Division of Resource Economics supported teachers and students in a project day where they engaged themselves to learn about Elinor Ostrom’s life and work. For example, students discussed issues of collective action in natural resource governance, played experiments facing social dilemma situations, and developed wall charts about Lin’s life that will be displayed at the school. Steffen Sachtleber, teacher and initiator of the name-giving procedure, emphasized that students and teachers were highly impressed by the whole range of Lin’s activities in science and her practical experience, and were inspired by her personality. They also aim to transfer her knowledge and visions in their own life and careers, and stressed how proud they are that their school now bears the name Elinor Ostrom.

Additional photos are available on the senior high school website: http://www.oszbwd.de/.
Reducing Electoral Fraud in Fragile Democracies

Free and fair elections, the cornerstone of modern democratic government, require officials to count and aggregate ballots accurately. The international community spends hundreds of millions of dollars every year trying to ensure fair elections in developing countries with widespread electoral malpractice. One ubiquitous donor policy is to send international election observers in an effort to reduce fraud. Such missions, however, have not typically followed scientific designs to detect, nor have they had any consistent effects on, electoral fraud. This means that the widely publicized observer verdicts of whether an election is “free or fair” are based largely on anecdotal, impressionistic, and unsystematic data.

We have been trying to create a research design to detect and deter electoral fraud using experimental approaches. Here’s the basic design: we choose a national, random sample of polling stations. We train hundreds of citizen-researchers in the use of a smartphone that has a custom application built into it. On election day, the researchers go to half of the polling stations in the morning and deliver a letter that states that the group is monitoring the election by taking a photo of the tally that has to be publicly posted in the polling station according to law. That’s the experiment’s intervention. The next day or that night, depending on the country’s laws about posting, the researchers return to those polling stations as well as the other half of the random sample—the control—and take the photos. We then can compare the photos from the two groups to see the effect of the treatment letter.

There are a number of dependent variables we use to measure the effect. First, we can simply see if more tallies are posted if they received a letter or not. Second, we can see if the last two in the winning candidate’s vote total are adjacent. The analysis of adjacent digits—a commonly used measure of electoral fraud—comes from studies in behavioral psychology that document the tendency of humans to disproportionately use adjacent digits when manufacturing numbers (randomly the digits should appear about 18% of the time; any more and either malfeasance or poor electoral administration has probably taken place). Third, we can compare the photos of the tallies that we took with the official results for the same stations that are eventually produced by the central government. Finally, we can just see the effect of the letter on votes for the incumbent.

We field tested the method in part of Afghanistan’s legislative elections in 2010. We were able to do the first nationwide sample in Uganda’s 2011 presidential and parliamentary election, and have just finished repeating the experiment in Kenya’s presidential and parliamentary 2013 elections. In the first two cases (the third being analyzed at the present), we have found large and significant effects. Depending on the country, the interventions caused increase between 10–20% for tallies posted and reduced votes for the incumbent by the same amount. We found discrepancies between the official count at the center versus the tally at the polling station that seems to always favor the incumbent (in fact, votes are added back to the counts of the incumbent at polling stations we treat).

We are excited by the potential for civil society groups to use these methods. The approach uses citizens of the country, technology, and a scientific approach that is completely missing from nearly all international missions.

— Clark Gibson, University of California San Diego
The International Association for the Study of the Commons (IASC) announced in May 2013 the eight winners of the “Elinor Ostrom Award on Collective Governance of the Commons”:

Practitioners

• FOUNDATION FOR ECOLOGICAL SECURITY (India), for their extensive work with both communities and the government to strengthen the local management of the commons and supportive policies for equity and on sustainability.

• GRUPO DE ESTUDIOS AMBIENTALES A.C. (Mexico), for their work to consolidate local rules into practice, particularly with ejidos and indigenous communities on forests management.

• OPEN SPACES SOCIETY (UK), for their long stewardship of the commons and their impact on commons policy and management both in the UK and Japan.

Senior Scholars

• BEN COUSINS, Institute for Poverty, Land and Agrarian Studies (University of the Western Cape, South Africa), for his multidisciplinary approach to explore how property rights and collective action arenas interact in agrarian settings where community management of land is crucial, for actively engaging with public policy in these areas, as well as for developing a community of scholars studying aspects of the commons.

• HARINI NAGENDRA, Ramanujan Fellow and Urban Ecology Coordinator, Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE, India), for her wide diversity of work, her innovation, and her use of different methodological approaches, as well as for her active participation as a practitioner on the commons.

• CHARLES SCHWEIK, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, for his innovative use of the Institutional Analysis and Development (IAD) framework, his long-term commitment and impact in public policy around the topic of knowledge commons, and his development of communities of practice and learning.

Young Scholars

• EDUARDO ARARAL, National University of Singapore, for his work on multiple sector commons, his innovative approaches to the commons, his long-term commitment to the analysis of governance institutions, and his impact on policies and consultancies, both locally and internationally.

• MICHAEL COX, Dartmouth College, for his innovative and collaborative work on social-ecological systems, his revision of the Ostrom design principles, and his widely comparative approach on the meta-analyses of large-scale common-pool resources.

The winners were presented with their award at the IASC 14th global conference held in Mt. Fuji, Japan, June 3–7.

Information about the award can be found at: http://elinorostromaward.org/2013-Award-Results.
Salvador Espinosa (July 26 – August 2, 2013), School of Public Affairs, San Diego State University, CA, is a scholar and public finance consultant specializing in fiscal decentralization, public financial administration, and regional development. He holds a Masters and a PhD in Public Affairs from Indiana University, as well as a BA in Economics from Universidad Panamericana (Mexico). His current research focuses on the budgetary impact of federal transfers in Mexico. Before starting his doctoral degree, Salvador worked as Budget Analyst for the City of Bloomington, Indiana; as Research Associate for the Indiana Fiscal Policy Institute (Indianapolis, Indiana), and Coordinator of Information and Economic Development for the government of the state of Guanajuato (Mexico).

Marcela da Silveira Feital (September 1 – November 1, 2013) is a social sciences graduate with emphasis on political science at the Instituto of Philosophy and Human Sciences (IFCH), Universidade Estadual de Campinas (UNICAMP), Brazil. Marcela is interested in the fields of environmental sociology, social conflicts, sustainability, and international relations. She has contributed to research in these areas of study since 2009 at the Center for Environmental Studies and Research (NEPAM/UNICAMP). This trend is directly related to environmental sociology with interests facing social conflicts related to different uses of natural resources and large enterprises that are part of the urban growth and that are possible generators of environmental impacts in most vulnerable areas to environmental changes.

Ranjan Ghosh (August 24 – December 18, 2013) is a PhD candidate at the Division of Resource Economics, Humboldt University, Berlin, Germany. He received his MSc in Economics from The Madras School of Economics, Chennai, in 2007 and has previously worked with The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), New Delhi. His prime research interests lie in institutional economics, regulation and economic methodology. His doctoral thesis studies the problems of electricity sector deregulation in India using transaction costs economics. It shows that the failure to achieve efficient competitive electricity markets is because of the high transaction costs generated due to the low credibility of independent regulation. During his stay at the Ostrom Workshop, he will explore the effects of social information on credible commitments using the IAD framework, which asserts that institutions that are able to generate quality information and leads to “change of rules over time in light of performance” will be more successful than “grand designs.”

Peter Heywood (February 1 – April 30, 2014) is honorary professor of international health at the University of Sydney, Australia. With training in epidemiology, policy analysis, economics, and nutrition, he has a strong background and experience in health policy and health sector reform in low-income countries with particular emphasis on South and Southeast Asia and the Pacific. Before retiring in 2006, he was a Lead Health Sector Specialist with the World Bank, leading that institution’s dialogue in the health sector and developing and supervising large portfolios of health sector investments in the public and private sectors in India (1998–2004) and Indonesia (2004–2006). Before joining the World Bank in 1994, Peter was Lecturer in Nutrition at the School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, University of Sydney (1974–77); Deputy Director of the Papua New Guinea Institute of Medical Research (1977–88); and Professor of Nutrition and Director of the Nutrition Program at the University of Queensland (1988–94). Peter’s recent research activities include (1) an assessment of the effect of decentralization of the health sector in Indonesia on health service delivery, health sector funding and health outcomes funded by the Ford Foundation; (2) a systematic review of the effect of public and private funding of ambulatory care in low-income countries on quality of care; and (3) an institutional assessment of the HIV/AIDS control program in Indonesia.

Evon Holladay (August 23 – December 18, 2013) currently serves as a vice president of enterprise intelligence for Catholic Health Initiatives (CHI), the third largest Catholic healthcare system in the United States. She has received a leadership scholarship. The scholarship is a six-month sabbatical awarded to a CHI executive for advanced study, research, writing, or community service. At the Ostrom Workshop, Holladay plans to research and write a report examining how health care as a commons, or community, can inform and guide the leadership of Catholic health care ministries regarding future governance models. Holladay will explore how a more collaborative form of governance will help bridge the gap between the US health care system’s fragmented fee-for-service structure and the rapidly evolving focus on accountable care and population health management. This study will explore how a more collaborative form of governance “Healthcare as a Commons” might be applied to understand high value (nested) variables that Catholic Healthcare leaders might apply in local and regional settings as they evolve from the “Tragedy of the Commons” of the fee-for-service world to a Healthcare Commons in the form of Accountable Care focused on managing population health.

Raimundo Nonato Jr. (September 25 – October 25, 2013) currently serves as a vice president of the Ostrom Workshop, leading that institution’s dialogue in the health sector and developing and supervising large portfolios of health sector investments in the public and private sectors in Brazil and Argentina. His research interest is to study the relation between private property rights in land and environmental degradation. He currently works in New Delhi, India, as a Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) officer at Alstom India & South Asia, where he is in charge of designing and implementing the CSR strategy of the company.
and the Ostrom Workshop, November 3–8, 2013.

Dr. Augustin Kwasi FOSU, Deputy Director, UN University-World Institute for Development Economics Research (UNUWIDER), Helsinki, Finland, visited IUB Dr. Shalini Vajjhala, Visiting Associate Professor of Environmental Policy, Johns Hopkins University, visited SPEA and the Ostrom Workshop, September 5–7, 2013.

Short-Term Visitors

Keith Taylor (August 17, 2012 – May 31, 2014) has a PhD in Human and Community Development, and is interested in better understanding the co-operative business model. Specifically, Keith’s interests pertain to governance, institutional design, market fit, and the externalized impact upon the host community (questions of development and experiential learning). Keith’s dissertation explored the effect that wind energy ownership models have 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 co-operative sector.

Andreas Thiel (August 3 – December 28, 2013) is temporary professor of environmental governance at the Department of Agricultural Economics, Humboldt University, Berlin, Germany. His research interests are the social sciences and institutional economics of social-ecological systems. His own substantive work focuses, among others, on recent transformations of water and marine governance in Europe. Further, he is involved in work on local climate change adaptation in Europe and Ethiopia and on land use change in Ethiopia. Throughout his stay at the Ostrom Workshop, he intends to prepare new research on above-named subjects focusing on a set of methodological and conceptual issues involved.

Bernard Trujillo (August 24 – December 18, 2013) is professor of law, Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, IN. He researches and teaches in the areas of Immigration Law, Mexican Migration to the United States, Bankruptcy, Corporate Finance, and Quantitative Analysis of Legal Systems. Trujillo practiced law in Washington, DC, with the firm of Wilmer, Cutler, and Pickering (now Wilmer Hale). He did his undergraduate work at Princeton University (graduating magna cum laude), earned his law degree at Yale Law School (articles editor of the Yale Law Journal), and clerked for Hon. Walter K. Stapleton of the US Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. He is interested in exploring the legal and social recognition of family support and family unification as it pertains to Mexican labor migration to the United States.

Idil Tunçer-Kilavuz (July 12 – September 20, 2013) is assistant professor of comparative politics in the Department of Political Science, Istanbul Medeniyet University. She got her PhD from Indiana University in 2007. Her research interests include identity, conflict, violent conflict, nationalism, ethnicity, regime changes, democratization, and social movements. Currently, she is completing her book, Power Perceptions, Networks and Violent Conflict: A Comparison of Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, and working on another comparative project on why some civil war negotiations are successful and others are not. Her book is on why civil war occurs, and describes the factors that produce it. In search for the causes of civil war, her research employs a comparative approach, contrasting a country that experienced civil war (Tajikistan) with a similar one that did not (Uzbekistan). Her findings, based on nine months of fieldwork in both countries, highlight the importance of elites’ power perceptions, which she shows have their origins in the interaction of structural-, process-, and network-related variables.

Dr. Shalini Vajjhala, Visiting Associate Professor of Environmental Policy, Johns Hopkins University, visited SPEA and the Ostrom Workshop, September 5–7, 2013.

Dr. Augustin Kwasi FOSU, Deputy Director, UN University-World Institute for Development Economics Research (UNUWIDER), Helsinki, Finland, visited IUB and the Ostrom Workshop, November 3–8, 2013.

Afghanistan: Assessing the Impact of 35 Years of Wars and Violence on Social Institutions

A Workshop Organized by Nazif Shahrani
(Ostrom Workshop, Anthropology, Central Eurasian Studies, & Near Eastern Languages and Cultures)
Indiana University
April 18–20, 2014

Over three decades ago, a communist military coup in Afghanistan led to the country’s invasion by the former USSR, instigating a globalized jihad to defend Afghanistan and defeat the Red Army. The military triumph in 1992 turned into a political disaster giving rise to the Taliban terrorist regime who provided safe haven to the Al Qaeda terrorists to attack the US and Western interests, including the 9–11–2001 tragedies in New York and Washington, DC. Despite America’s longest war on the so-called “Global War on Terror” in Afghanistan, the Taliban and Al Qaeda threat remains high, while US and NATO forces are scheduled to withdraw from Afghanistan by the end of 2014, leaving behind a weak, corrupt, illegitimate, and unstable government in charge.

In this planned workshop, a new generation of researchers who have carried out extensive field research recently in Afghanistan will undertake a systematic interdisciplinary assessment of the impacts of more than three and a half decades of war, occupation, and violence on Afghanistan’s social institutions and political culture. Unlike most other security-centered conferences on Afghanistan, this forum will offer the opportunity to examine and analyze the discourses of the peoples of Afghanistan on the ground about their own local-level experiences of the wars and violence and how it has impacted their social lives, institutional practices, added to their predicaments, fears, hopes, and solutions for the future in some detail.
Our research evaluates the tree-planting programs of five nonprofit organizations in the eastern United States. We are interested in discovering what types of ecological and social impacts collective tree planting and maintenance has on neighborhoods and individuals. For instance, our nonprofit partner organizations have noticed that some of the neighborhoods in which they plant trees then go on to do other types of group activities, like a neighborhood crime watch. But so far, these are just anecdotes; we are interested in putting real data behind the question to see what impacts tree planting has. Our project will collect data on the trees planted between 2009 and 2011 to measure survival rates and growth rates. We will also survey and interview people who live in neighborhoods where trees were planted, as well as in neighborhoods that did not plant trees, to measure the differences in neighborhood and individual characteristics such as trust and neighbor-to-neighbor familiarity. The IUOS grant funds will be added to almost $400K in existing project resources, and will specifically help increase the number of people we can survey in each city.

Additional information about the recipients and their research can be found at: http://www.indiana.edu/~sustain/education-research/research/2013-14-grad-grant-profiles.php.
Colloquia — Fall 2013


Sept 9 • Tun Myint, Department of Political Science, Carleton College, “Polycentric Resilience: Why Did State-Building Exercises Fail in Myanmar/Burma?”

Sept 16 • Craig Anthony (Tony) Arnold, Louis D. Brandeis School of Law, University of Louisville, “The Evolution of Watershed Institutions in the U.S.”

Sept 18 • Idil Tunçer-Kilavuz, Department of Political Science and Public Administration, Istanbul Medeniyet University; Workshop Visiting Scholar, “Power, Networks and Violent Conflict: A Comparison of Tajikistan and Uzbekistan”


Sept 23 • Salvador Espinosa, School of Public Affairs, San Diego State University, “Towards a Method to Assess Ex-Post Regulatory Effectiveness: Applying Institutional Grammar to Tobacco Legislation in Mexico”

Sept 30 • Derek Armitage, Department of Environment and Resource Studies, University of Waterloo, Canada, “Governance and the Problem of ‘Fit’ in Aquatic Systems”

Oct 2 • Nicholas D Amico, PhD candidate, Department of Political Science, IUB, “Product of Our Environment: The Effect of Institutions on the Use of Voting Heuristics”

Oct 4 • Alan Ryan, Department of Politics, Princeton University, “Rereading J. S. Mill”

Oct 7 • Michael L. Cook, Department of Agricultural Economics, University of Missouri, “The Design Principles: Ultimate and Proximate Causations in Food and Agriculture”

Oct 9 • Ryan Conway, PhD candidate, Department of Political Science, IUB, “Scientific Rigor, Policy Relevance, and Radical Commons”


Oct 21 • Michael Madison, School of Law, University of Pittsburgh, “Commons at the Intersection of Peer Production, Citizen Science, and Big Data: Galaxy Zoo”

Oct 23 • Raimundo Nonato Junior, Parana State University, Brazil, “The Brazilian-European Boundary in Amazonia: An IAD Study about Bilateral Resources”

Oct 28 • Karl Zimmerer. Department of Geography, Pennsylvania State University, “Agrobiodiversity and Environmental Governance: The Contested Social-Ecological Futures of Food and Land Use”

Oct 30 • Jacob Bower-Bir, PhD candidate, SPEA & Department of Political Science; and Nicholas D’Amico, PhD candidate, Department of Political Science, IUB, “A Tool for All People, but Not All Occasions: How Voting Heuristics Interact with Political Knowledge and Environment”

Nov 1 • Jerry Muller, Department of History, Catholic University of America, “Capitalism and Inequality: What the Right and the Left Get Wrong”

Nov 4 • Richard Feiock, Askew School of Public Administration and Policy, Florida State University, “Institutional Collective Action: Regional Collaborations among Cities for Economic Development and Sustainability”

Nov 6 • Bernard Trujillo. School of Law, Valparaiso University; Workshop Visiting Scholar, “Child Support and Mexican Labor Migration to the U.S.”


Nov 13 • Christine Moser, Leuphana Universität Lüneburg, Germany, “Institutionalizing Certification for Sustainability: Are Biofuel Certification Systems Fit for Purpose?”

Nov 18 • Cancelled

Nov 20 • Ranjan Ghosh, Division of Resource Economics, Humboldt University, Berlin, “Social Information, Institutional Environment and Regulatory Commitment”

Dec 2 • Andreas Thiel. Department of Agricultural Economics, Humboldt University, Berlin; Workshop Visiting Scholar, “TBA”

Dec 4 • Ewen Holladay. Enterprise Intelligence, Catholic Health Initiatives, Englewood, CO; Workshop Visiting Scholar, “What Will It Take to Create Healthcare as a Commons?”

Dec 9 • Margaret McKean, Department of Political Science, Duke University, “TBA”

Dec 11 • Ursula Kreitmair, PhD candidate, SPEA & Department of Political Science, IUB, “TBA”
Fall Kick-Off BBQ

9.13.13
A number of Working Groups are currently active at the Ostrom Workshop:

• COMMUNITY COMMONS (Coordinators: Ryan Conway & Carrie Lawrence)
  This working group is intended to provide a forum for research and discussion of community-based and applied research methods, designed to engage communities and catalyze social change for the creation and preservation of commons. We invite academics, practitioners, commons enthusiasts, and local community members to come together to discuss both implications and applications of the cutting-edge scholarship developed by the Ostrom Workshop and by commons scholars around the world. By inviting a diverse audience to explore a diversity of commons concepts, we seek to cultivate synergies in the interface between commons research and commons practice, bringing citizen science to policy science and Workshop wisdom to commons sense. To these ends, we sponsor the Friday afternoon COMMUNITY COMMONS COLLOQUIA and work to build relationships with other commons-oriented campus and community groups.

• ELECTRIC ENERGY (Coordinators: Elizabeth Baldwin & Keith Taylor)
  The Electric Energy Working Group is dedicated to understanding the governance systems at play within the US electric grid system. Recent attempts at electricity deregulation, and re-regulation, as well as various collective action and ecological dilemmas at a number of levels—the end consumer, the distribution network, the transmission lines, and the energy generators—make the electric grid a highly complex socio-technological construct. Limited understanding of the grid further separates the potential for public engagement on issues related to aging infrastructure, energy rates, and environmental externalities.

• HEALTH COMMONS (Coordinator: Carrie Lawrence)
  Managing the health care commons is a mounting challenge for our nation and our world; however, we believe that the Ostrom Workshop toolkit is uniquely adaptive and qualified to dig deeply and insightfully into this challenge (see IU News Room, 11/18/10, “Rippel Foundation Awards Grant to Ostrom, IU Research Center, to Apply Insights to Health Care”).

• INSTITUTIONS, BEHAVIOR, AND POLICY OUTCOMES (Coordinators: Salvador Espinosa, San Diego State University, & Saba Siddiki, IUPUI)
  This group is interested in the effect of alternative institutional arrangements on behavior, and its possible impact on policy outcomes. Our goal is to uncover important theoretical relationships between these intertwined factors. We use the IAD’s approach to institutional analysis as a foundation, but we draw leverage from other theoretical and methodological approaches, such as behavioral law and economics, behavioral finance, experimental economics, sociology, among others. The group will discuss readings, share ideas, and explore topics for joint collaboration. The members of the group will interact online, using tools like Twitter, Dropbox, Google Docs, and videoconferencing. One of the objectives of this group is to organize a panel for the WOW5 conference that will take place in Bloomington in 2014. Note: The group will start meeting in January 2014. Please contact Dr. Espinosa (salvador.espinosa@sdsu.edu) or Dr. Siddiki (ssiddiki@iupui.edu) if you would like to participate.

• INTEGRATING ECOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVES WITH THE SOCIAL-ECOLOGICAL SYSTEM FRAMEWORK (Coordinator: Graham Epstein)
  This working group will focus on integrating ecological perspectives with the social-ecological system (SES) framework developed by Elinor Ostrom. The SES framework underlies an ambitious research agenda that adopts a diagnostic approach to investigate the relationship between a large number of potentially relevant variables and outcomes in the commons. This research agenda further proposes to break down disciplinary boundaries by providing scholars with a shared tool for studies of the commons. While the framework has taken steps from its institutional analysis origin to incorporate insights from ecology, gaps remain that may limit adoption by ecologists. The goal of this group will be to construct a working paper that identifies these gaps and proposes possible changes to the framework. As a starting point we will look at the models that ecologists and hydrologists use to examine these systems, and the variables that are used to construct these models. Throughout this process we will identify missing variables for inclusion in the SES framework, and seek to determine whether ecological models are compatible with the action situation at the center of the framework. Note: The group is finalizing existing projects, and looking for new leadership to work in existing or new directions.

• PROPERTY, SOVEREIGNTY, AND JURISDICTION (Coordinator: Daniel Cole)
  This group studies those three concepts as intertwined aspects of control, in the sense of decision-making authority, including informal, formal, official, and unofficial authority, over both people
and resources. The Workshop has a long history studying property systems, but not in the context of systems of sovereignty and jurisdiction. Whether the source of property, sovereignty, and/or jurisdiction lies in legal/constitutional, religious, or other texts, the determination of who has property (and who does not), who is sovereign (and who is not), and who has jurisdiction (and who does not) profoundly influences political power relations within society. Areas of applied interest include, but are not limited to: (1) property as sovereignty (and vice versa); (2) property as jurisdiction (and vice versa); (3) sovereignty as jurisdiction (and vice versa); (4) explicit or implicit combinations of property, sovereignty, and jurisdiction in historical (e.g., feudal) societies; and (5) relations property and sovereignty in contemporary religious communities (e.g., Muslim societies).

**RADICAL COMMONS (Coordinator: Ryan Conway)**

This working group will create a forum for dialogue and study of collective commons management situations, as they pertain to social change and activism. Scholars, practitioners, and community members will collaborate to understand and synthesize commons frameworks, including the many theoretical and methodological implements in the Workshop toolkit. This group will seek pragmatic application of commons theory, especially with respect to solidarity economies, horizontal polycentricism, social activism, and community self-organization. Current research and discussion interests include: institutional evolution and decay; the effects of discursive framing on collective ideation, network signaling, and the development of shared strategies; the incidence of Temporary Autonomous Zones and other spatially or temporally dynamic commons; and pedagogical considerations relevant to the accessible translation of commons theory for diverse audiences.

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**Indiana University Grant Opportunities**

- **2013–14 OSTROM GRANTS PROGRAM**
  Applications from tenure stream faculty, as well as full-time non-tenure track faculty, are welcomed. Deadline for applications is January 24, 2014. See call for proposals at: [http://college.indiana.edu/faculty/OSTROMGrantsProgram.pdf](http://college.indiana.edu/faculty/OSTROMGrantsProgram.pdf).

- **2013–14 COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH GRANTS (IUCRG) PROGRAM**
  IUCRG grants of up to $75,000 fund teams of researchers from different disciplines, departments, schools, or campuses to pursue transformative and innovative research projects with high potential for securing additional funding from external sources. Deadline for IUCRG proposals is December 3, 2013. The full request for applications, as well as answers to FAQs, is available at [http://research.iu.edu/funding_collaborative.shtml](http://research.iu.edu/funding_collaborative.shtml).

- **FACULTY RESEARCH SUPPORT PROGRAM (FRSP)**
  The FRSP supports new innovative research projects that were previously submitted for, but did not receive, external funding from federal, state, international, or private nonprofit entities and whose likelihood of funding on resubmission would increase with the acquisition of additional data or proof of concept (see [http://ovpr.indiana.edu/funding/internal-funding-programs/faculty-research-support-program/](http://ovpr.indiana.edu/funding/internal-funding-programs/faculty-research-support-program/)).

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On August 8–9, 2013, Workshop visiting scholars, Art Sherwood and Keith Taylor, held a day-long roundtable at the Ostrom Workshop with US co-op leaders to assess the need for a coordinated research program on the co-operative institutional model. More than 20 national co-operative leaders attended, as well as regional Indiana co-operatives, and fellow Workshoppers Dan Cole, Ryan Conway, and Mike McGinnis. Taylor’s WOW5 working group—“Co-Operative Institutions and the Bloomington School: A Mutually Reinforcing Relationship”—will focus on the institutional design (artifact) and actor (artisan) implications of co-operative ownership by drawing on the institutional analysis and logics literature.

Elinor Ostrom, co-recipient of the 2009 Nobel Prize in economics, argues that in studying social order, we should not be limited to only the conceptions of order derived from the work of Adam Smith and Thomas Hobbes. To be precise, we should not limit ourselves to theoretical frameworks of The State and to theoretical frameworks of The Market. We need approaches that match the extensive variety of institutional arrangements existent in the world. In this book, Paul Dragos Aligica discusses some of the most challenging ideas emerging out of the research program on institutional diversity associated with Ostrom and her associates, while outlining a set of new research directions and an original interpretation of the significance and future of this program.


This is the first undergraduate textbook that discusses the work of Elinor Ostrom and applies it to a variety of topics. Marty Anderies and Marco Janssen used earlier versions of the book during the last two years in their undergraduate class “Rules, Games, and Society.” The book is available as a free download in PDF format or as an e-book at: http://sustainingthecommons.asu.edu/.


This book examines the transformation of civic identity in polyethnic city settings and demonstrates the importance of institutional mechanisms and practices in civic identity formation processes.


In this book, Ferguson presents a comprehensive political economy text aimed at advanced undergraduates in economics and graduate students in the social sciences. The text utilizes collective action as a unifying concept, arguing that collective-action problems lie at the foundation of market success, market failure, economic development, and the motivations for policy. Ferguson draws on information economics, social preference theory, cognition theory, institutional economics, as well as political and policy theory to develop this approach. The text uses classical, evolutionary, and epistemic game theory, along with basic social network analysis, as modeling frameworks. These models effectively bind the ideas presented, generating a coherent theoretic approach to political economy that stresses sometimes overlooked implications.


This book chronicles the rise of the US system of direct and progressive taxation. Mehrotra provides historical perspective on the intellectual, legal, and administrative foundations of the current US tax regime. In doing so, he uncovers the contested roots and paradoxical consequences of a fundamental transformation in American tax law and policy that took place at the turn of the twentieth century. He argues that the move toward a regime of direct and graduated taxation marked the emergence of a new fiscal polity—a new form of statecraft guided not only by the functional need for greater revenue, but also by broader social concerns about equity, fiscal citizenship, bureaucratic authority, and economic justice. This book explores what tax reformers at the turn of the twentieth century were able to accomplish and how their limited achievements were contested at nearly every turn.


**Call for Papers**

Special Issue of the *Forum for Social Economics*, Issue 3 (November 2014)

**“Formal Methods for Integrated Socio-Economic Analysis”**

This special issue, to be edited by Professor Tara Natarajan, invites papers on the use and applications of the Social Fabric Matrix Approach (SFM-A): Descriptive and analytical uses, applications and extensions of the SFM-A to recent domestic/international/global socioeconomic problems, and contemporary policy matters. Use and applications of other integrated methodologies such as Ostrom’s Institutional Analysis and Development (IAD) framework to recent domestic/international/global socioeconomic problems, and contemporary policy matters are also sought.

If you are interested in submitting an article and/or serving as a reviewer for the articles submitted, contact: tnatarajan@smcvt.edu. Deadline extended for detailed abstracts or proposals: December 1, 2013. More information at: [http://socialeconomicsblog.typepad.com/](http://socialeconomicsblog.typepad.com/).

**Forthcoming four-volume compendium on Elinor Ostrom’s work**

Although she is remembered first and foremost as the scholar of the commons, Lin made many other important contributions that, together with Vincent’s work, have been recognized as comprising a distinct school of political-economic thought. Hence, the working title of the four-volume project is *Elinor Ostrom and the Bloomington School of Political Economy: A Compendium of Key Statements, Collaborations, and Reactions*. Each 400–page volume will focus on a different aspect of Lin’s contributions to the Bloomington School:

- **Volume I on “Polycentricity”**
- **Volume II on “Resource Governance”**
- **Volume III on “Frameworks and Methods”**
- **Volume IV on “Policy Analysis”**

The editors will provide an introduction to the entire series, tying together the myriad strands of Lin’s prolific career. In addition, each volume will have its own introduction to provide readers with a roadmap to its contents. The four volumes will be published serially during 2015–2016.

Workshop Advisory Council Chair Dan Cole and Workshop Senior Research Fellow Mike McGinnis recently signed a contract with Lexington Books to edit a four-volume collection of papers by Lin Ostrom (both alone and with various coauthors), plus works by other authors building on Lin’s ideas. In sum, approximately 90 authors and coauthors will be represented in this volume, most of them members of the Workshop Affiliated Faculty. The goal of the project is to provide a fairly comprehensive overview of Lin’s myriad contributions to social science.

**Special Issues**

*The Commons Digest*, no. 13 (Summer 2013), includes essays in honor of Elinor Ostrom ([http://www.iasc-commons.org-commons-digest/no-13-summer-2013](http://www.iasc-commons.org-commons-digest/no-13-summer-2013)).


A research study by Krister Andersson, Tom Evans, and Clark Gibson on “Protecting Global Forests” was recognized by the National Science Foundation.

Matthew Auer became vice president for academic affairs and dean of the faculty at Bates College, Lewiston, ME, on July 1. Matt was formerly the dean of IU’s Hutton Honors College (http://inside.iub.edu/spotlights-profiles/featured/2013-07-25-iniub-matthew-auer.shtml).


Jacob Bower-Bir was awarded a John H. Edwards Fellowship for 2013–14, one of IU’s most prestigious academic awards.

Eduardo Brondizio was appointed to Future Earth’s inaugural Science Committee (http://www.icsu.org/future-earth/who/future-earth-science-committee) this past June. Future Earth is a new ten-year international research initiative that will develop the knowledge for responding effectively to the risks and opportunities of global environmental change and for supporting transformation toward global sustainability in the coming decades.

In June, Emily Castle and Julie England received a Women’s Philanthropy Council award for “Virtual Access to the Vincent and Elinor Ostrom Workshop in Political Theory and Policy Analysis Research Library, IU Bloomington.” The IU award will fund the hiring of a program consultant to advise the IT and library staff on making the Workshop Research Library’s catalog accessible worldwide via the Internet (http://newsinfo.iu.edu/news/page/normal/24312.html).

Dan Cole, Tom Evans, James Farmer, and Burney Fischer are recipients of IU’s Sustainability Course Development Fellowship for 2013–14 (http://newsinfo.iu.edu/news/page/normal/24334.html).

An OVPR Center and Institute Pooled Fund for Excellence grant for $61,488 was awarded to Tom Evans (PI), Burney Fischer, Rinku Roy Chowdhury, and Alan Ewert (co-PIs) for “Environmental Governance and Urban Ecosystems in the United States.”

Forrest Fleischman accepted a new position as assistant professor in the Department of Ecosystem Science and Management at Texas A&M University in College Station, TX, in fall 2013 (http://essm.tamu.edu/people/faculty/fleischman-forrest-d/).

IU first lady Laurie Burns McRobbie dedicated the Indiana Governor’s Conference for Women (held in Indianapolis, IN, on November 5) in memory of Elinor Ostrom. See also “Elinor Ostrom Tribute,” a memorial documentary by Brave New Productions.

Sanchayan Nath has been awarded a $3,000 fellowship from IU’s Randall L. Tobias Center for Leadership Excellence for the 2013–14 academic year.


On November 14, Rinku Roy Chowdhury was presented with a Campus Catalyst Sustainability Award for “Excellence in Research” from IU’s Office of Sustainability.

Nicole Todd resigned her position at the Ostrom Workshop on July 19 to accept a position at IU’s School of Informatics.

Spencer Yang received IU’s Distinguished International Service Award at an alumni reception held in Taipei, Taiwan, on May 30 (http://global.iu.edu/blog/2013/05/30/spencer-yang/).

Happy Holidays and Best Wishes for a Happy New Year!

Burney Fischer presents Gayle Higgins with her certificate for 25 years of service to the Workshop & IU, October 2013