New director of the Ostrom Workshop

I am excited with the opportunities and challenges of directing the Workshop and deeply honored to hold the Ostrom Chair. I am overwhelmed by the support from Workshoppers, the Workshop staff, and from units across campus as we move the Workshop to its next iteration. I have much to learn, and without the mentoring of Burney Fischer and the staff, I would not have been able to keep my head above water. They continue to show me the ropes. So: THANKS BURNEY and STAFF. The Workshop is an incredible worldwide community and I look forward to getting to know you better. So, what is in store? The main agenda item is to complete a strategic plan by the spring. We hired a consultant who will collect data from IUB faculty as well as faculty affiliates elsewhere. Most likely you will be contacted, and certainly let us know if you wish to be contacted. Once we have the data summarized, we will hold a town hall meeting to elicit feedback. I will keep you posted as we move forward.

In consultation with the Workshop Advisory Council (WAC), we have made changes to two core activities of the Workshop. For the Visiting Scholars Program, we are particularly interested in scholars who have collaborations with faculty at IUB. We wish to promote research/publications as well as grant activity (please see the Visiting Scholars Program tab on the website). For the Colloquium series, we will experiment in the spring with a more participatory series. We expect the presenter to have a working paper/grant proposal/book proposal circulated in advance, and we expect all attendees to read the work ahead of the colloquium. The presenter will have five minutes for clarifications, but then we will open up the floor. The format will promote considerably more cross-disciplinary engagement with more reflective comments. The goal is to help the presenter improve their work and in turn enhance the reputation of the Workshop. In many ways, this revives the interactive and engaged forum that made the colloquium a widely recognized and long-lasting institution of constructive intellectual exchange. It will also simply be more fun. Last but not least, the Workshop website is due for a makeover. I welcome your comments and hope to see you in Bloomington.

—Lee Alston
is published biannually in May & November. We welcome submissions from current and former Workshoppers regarding research projects, awards, publications, announcements, etc. Items may be submitted to the editor, Patty Lezotte (zielinsk@indiana.edu)

Please submit items by APRIL 3, 2015 for inclusion in the May 2015 issue

An archive of past newsletter issues is available at: http://www.indiana.edu/~workshop/publications/newsletter/index.php

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

EDITOR
Patty Lezotte

LAYOUT AND DESIGN
Patty Lezotte

DIRECTOR
Lee J. Alston

FOUNDING DIRECTORS
Vincent and Elinor Ostrom

In Memoriam
Robert B. Hawkins Jr. 1941–2014

I am sure that many of you know that Robert B. Hawkins Jr. passed away on September 28, 2014, in his beloved California surrounded by family and friends. Bob was president and CEO of the Institute for Contemporary Studies (ICS) and its press. He served as the director of the American Policy Program at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. In 1973, he chaired Governor Reagan’s Task Force on Local Government Reform. But it was his work on that task force that cemented his 40-year association with Vincent and Lin Ostrom and the Workshop. As publisher of ICS Press, he oversaw the publication of 17 books by Workshop authors between 1988 and 2002.

I was fortunate to meet Bob in 1973 and we kept in touch over the years, also through the annual Workshop on Covenant and Politics that Daniel Elazar organized at Temple University in Philadelphia. It was a sheer joy in those workshops to watch Vincent, Bob, and Dan engage in animated conversations about the meaning and lessons of the American political experiment.

When the opportunity came to organize the WOW5 plenary session on the future of the Workshop to be held in June 2014, I naturally turned to Bob to chair that session. Unfortunately, he had to have open heart surgery and could not join us. But I was able to persuade him to write his recollections on his association with Vincent and Lin and to also send me his draft of how he would answer the question for the plenary session, “What Is To Be Done?”

Workshoppers can read his notes for themselves (see http://www.indiana.edu/~workshop/founders/Robert_Hawkins.pdf), also as a tribute to Bob’s own influence, his scholarship, and his kindness and generosity. Like Vincent and Lin, he would, I am sure, remind us that the best tribute to his memory is for us to work to expand the Workshop community of scholars, practitioners, and citizens and extend the reach of our ideas to enable people the world over to live more productive lives.

—Filippo Sabetti
McGill University & the Ostrom Workshop
The fifth Workshop on the Ostrom Workshop (WOW5) conference, held at IU Bloomington on June 18–21, was the biggest WOW yet, with 247 people attending. The event hosted 49 Working Groups and 203 panels or presentations. There were 26 countries represented, including the USA. Two major networking events were the Thursday evening reception at the Art Museum, and closing Saturday evening dinner at the new Presidents Hall on campus. Workshoppers surely missed the Ostroms, but the robust discussions throughout the four days would have brought them much joy.

A list of participants, additional photographs, and evaluation form are available via the WOW5 website at: http://www.indiana.edu/~wow5/index.html.

Mark your calendar for WOW6!
June 19–22, 2019
**VISITORS**

**MELF-HINRICH EHLERS** (Aug 22 – Dec 17, 2014) is an applied economist at the James Hutton Institute in Aberdeen, Scotland UK. His research draws on institutional economics and entrepreneurship and innovation theory, looking at formation and governance of renewable energy sectors.

**DALSON FIGUEIREDO FILHO** (Aug 26 – Sept 13, 2014) is assistant professor in the Department of Political Science, Federal University of Pernambuco (UFPE), Brazil. He does research on campaign finance, legislative studies, and quantitative methods.

**CHRISTOS KALANTARIDIS** (Sept 8–18; Oct 21–30; Dec 8–12, 2014) is professor of Entrepreneurship and Innovation at Bradford University School of Management, UK. His research interests include: (1) the political economy of institutional change: placing particular emphasis on the role of entrepreneurial actors in contestable process in diverse empirical contexts and (2) processes of adaptation and conflict as a result of the growth of knowledge transfer activities within higher education.

**MARINA MIOVSKA** (Sept 21 – Oct 4, 2014) is an Erasmus Mundus PhD candidate with fellowship obtained through the Forest and Nature for Society (FONASO) Joint Doctoral Programme. Her research interests include community forests, community-based forest management, collective action, and governance in forestry.

**WALTER SALAS ZAPATA** (Aug 18 – Dec 15, 2014) is an assistant professor at the School of Microbiology, University of Antioquia, Medellin, Colombia. His areas of interest are: (1) sustainability science, (2) microbiology from a sustainability approach, and (3) governance for social-ecological resilience.

**MARK STEPHAN** (Oct 18–30, 2014) is an associate professor in the School of Politics, Philosophy, and Public Affairs at Washington State University. His research is in the areas of climate risk governance, environmental information disclosure policy, and environmental policy in US states.

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**Short-Term Visitors, Fall 2014**

**KRISTER ANDERSSON**, associate professor in environmental policy, Department of Political Science, Environmental Studies Program, Institute of Behavioral Science, University of Colorado at Boulder (Oct 30–31)

**LETICIA MERINO**, president of IASC and professor, National University of Mexico (Nov 5–9)

**SEUMAS MILLER**, professor of philosophy, Charles Sturt University; Senior Research Fellow, 3TU Centre for Ethics and Technology, Delft University of Technology, the Netherlands (Sept 10)

**JOHN SEARLE**, Willis S. and Marion Slusser Professor of Philosophy, University of California, Berkeley (Sept 12)
Lee Alston has been elected President-Elect of the Economic History Association for 2014–15.

Jacob Bower-Bir successfully defended his PhD dissertation on October 1.

Eduardo Brondizio, Department of Anthropology, is the new chair of the Workshop Advisory Council (WAC).

Sanya Carley, Jennifer Brass, Elizabeth Baldwin, and Lauren M. MacLean are the winners of this year’s APPAM and ICPA-Forum Award for Best Comparative Paper, “Global Expansion of Renewable Energy Generation: An Analysis of Policy Instruments.”

Tine de Moor has been elected President-Elect of the International Association for the Study of the Commons (IASC).

Tom Evans, Shahzeen Attari, Beth Plale, Kelly Caylor, and Justin Sheffield recently received funding from the National Science Foundation for a five-year project entitled “Impacts of Agricultural Decision Making and Adaptive Management on Food Security in Africa.”

Burney Fischer received the 2014 Outstanding Lifetime Achievement Award, in Promoting the Principles of Urban Forestry in Indiana, from the Indiana Urban Forest Council. The award was presented at the 24th Annual Conference in Indianapolis, IN, on October 15.

Ranjan Ghosh, an ex-visiting scholar, successfully defended his PhD dissertation, “Toward Transaction Cost Regulation: Insights from the Indian Power Generation Sector” (co-supervised by Dan Cole and Konrad Hagedorn) on October 17 at Humboldt University Berlin (Germany) and was awarded Summa Cum Laude (highest honors). He will move very soon to the Department of Economics, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU) in Uppsala as a postdoctoral researcher.

Sanchayan Nath was awarded a 2014–15 Graduate Student Sustainability Research Development Grant from IU’s Office of Sustainability for “Leadership and Governance: Sustainable Urban Water-Bodies in India.”

Filippo Sabetti was asked by IU President Michael McRobbie to serve as the IU representative at the installation of the new chancellor, Michael A. Meighen, of McGill University, Montreal, Quebec, Canada. The ceremony took place on October 29.

Walter Salas Zapata, current visiting scholar, was awarded a 2014 Science prize in the area of Environment and Sustainable Development from the Fundación Alejandro Angel Escobar for his dissertation, “Design of a Model for Sustainability Analysis in Public Health Policies.”

Jessica Vogt, SPEA/CIPEC, successfully defended her PhD dissertation on July 22. In August, Jess began a new position as a visiting assistant professor in the Earth and Environmental Sciences Department at Furman University in Greenville, SC.

Energy-based economic development: How clean energy can drive development and stimulate economic growth delivers working definitions, common approaches, descriptions of supportive policy mechanisms, and suggested metrics for evaluation. The book offers a unified framework for EBED that is supported by examples and leaves readers better equipped to design, plan, and implement EBED initiatives. Case studies illustrate how national and subnational initiatives adopt to a locale’s energy asset base, energy and economic development needs, and the context in which the initiative operates. Descriptions of the energy projects supported by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act offer insights about what worked and what did not and suggest ways in which governments can be better prepared to manage EBED projects in the future.


“Knowledge commons” describes the institutionalized community governance of the sharing and, in some cases, creation, of information, science, knowledge, data, and other types of intellectual and cultural resources. It is the subject of enormous recent interest and enthusiasm with respect to policymaking about innovation, creative production, and intellectual property. Taking that enthusiasm as its starting point, Governing Knowledge Commons argues that policymaking should be based on evidence and a deeper understanding of what makes commons institutions work. It offers a systematic way to study knowledge commons, borrowing and building on Elinor Ostrom’s Nobel Prize-winning research on natural resource commons. It proposes a framework for studying knowledge commons that is adapted to the unique attributes of knowledge and information, describing the framework in detail and explaining how to put it into context both with respect to commons research and with respect to innovation and information policy. Eleven detailed case studies apply and discuss the framework exploring knowledge commons across a wide variety of scientific and cultural domains.


When the five Central Asian republics gained independence from the Soviet Union in 1991, expectations of violent conflict were widespread. Indeed, the country of Tajikistan suffered a five-year civil war from 1992 to 1997. The factors that the literature on civil wars in general and on the Tajikistan civil war in particular cites as the causes of war were also present in Uzbekistan – but this country had a peaceful transition. Examining this empirical puzzle by isolating the crucial factors that caused war to break out in Tajikistan but not Uzbekistan, this book applies a powerful comparative approach to the broader question of why civil wars occur. Based on fieldwork in both countries, it challenges many common explanations of civil war both generally and in Tajikistan in particular.

**Forthcoming**


Articles


SPECIAL ISSUES:


A visit from John Searle

On Friday, September 12, a scholar whose work was critical to the intellectual development of both Lin and Vincent Ostrom visited the Ostrom Workshop to meet and greet some of our current faculty, students, and visiting scholars. John Searle, the Willis S. and Marion Slusser Professor of Philosophy, University of California, Berkeley, was in Bloomington to give two Patten Lectures on topics related to consciousness and human civilization (for links to videos, see http://patten.indiana.edu/lecturers/John-Searle.html).

Any of you fortunate enough to have sat through the graduate seminars taught by Lin or Vincent surely encountered his name, in reference to the critical distinction between institutional facts and brute facts. I still use his description of the difficulties that any effort to understand an American football game using only statistical analysis of behavioral data would face—it might be possible to generalize about a pattern of “periodic clustering,” with “circular clustering” being followed by “linear clustering,” and then intermittence of participants wearing different colored costumes, but none of it would make any sense without a basic understanding of the rules of this sport, as a working institution. At this meeting, Professor Searle shared with us some of the challenges of his current work at the Institute for Social Ontology in Berkeley, and described the time of John R. Commons as a golden age of economics. My guess is that the Ostroms would have been pleased by that comment, and then used it as an opportunity to engage in contestation about the most important contributions of Commons to the study of political economy!

—Mike McGinnis
The Ostrom Workshop Library is pleased to announce the online availability of our Library Catalog, a comprehensive new way to access 93,000+ records specifically devoted to research topics at the Ostrom Workshop.

The web-based catalog gathers, in one location, information about the materials in the Ostrom Workshop Library, along with detailed records on relevant materials in other IU libraries. Furthermore, the catalog serves as a virtual library of books and articles relevant to common-pool resources and institutional analysis, and allows researchers the ability to more easily access or seek out resources to meet their needs. Online browsing by Author or Keyword is available, along with search capabilities including options to filter by Year, Record Type, and Keyword.

Previously, this catalog was only available on in-house computers located in the Ostrom Workshop Library. We are excited to be nearing the end of this multiyear project, with an updated catalog containing new search capabilities, and export functions to XML and Endnote to assist in researcher bibliography needs.

The Ostrom Workshop was a sponsor of the Health Connections Commons Conference, held on the IU Bloomington campus on October 29. Designed to engage the campus and community in a broad range of course-based and research-based partnerships, the conference begins the work of building a web-based Health Connections Commons (HCC). Professor Mohan Dutta, Purdue University, delivered the conference’s keynote address, “Communication and Spaces of Structural Transformation: Collaborating for Alternative Imaginations.” Workshop participants included: Ryan Conway, Carrie Ann Lawrence, Joan Pong Linton, Michael McGinnis, Keith Taylor, and Julia Valliant.

The HCC implements a major recommendation from a local health study undertaken by the Ostrom Workshop. Inspired by Elinor Ostrom’s work on managing the commons, the HCC is envisioned to be a website that would be generally accessible by the community, and also serve as a social media platform for organizations and health/social care providers. In addition to information sharing, the HCC would be a site for participants to make on-the-ground connections and collaborate on community-based initiatives, research, and fund-raising. This will be the first step in a long-term effort to coproduce a sustainable healthy community in Bloomington and surrounding areas, shifting our community from a culture organized around sickness relief to one organized around wellness and preventive healthcare.

For a full conference agenda and more details, see: www.indiana.edu/~hcommons.

I met with several kinds of associations in America of which I confess I had no previous notion; and I have often admired the extreme skill with which the inhabitants of the United States succeed in proposing a common object for the exertions of a great many men and in inducing them voluntarily to pursue it.

—Alexis de Tocqueville, Democracy in America

Yet I worry that the need for continuous civic engagement, intellectual struggle, and vigilance is not well understood in some of our mature democracies and is not transmitted to citizens and officials in new democracies. . . . We have to avoid slipping into a naive sense that democracy—once established—will continue on its own momentum.

Actual World, Possible Future and the China Ostrom Society—Update from the Field

From July 1–18, we traveled 16,300 miles by plane, train, or van. We visited Beijing, Shanghai, Hangzhou (with populations of twenty-four, twenty-three, and five million, respectively). We were at Huangshan Mountain (photo right) and in Guilin (photo below), where 50 percent of the population is involved in tourism. We walked along winding paths in the rice fields of Longsheng in the pouring rain. We pulled off the road to talk with farmers picking chrysanthemums to sell for tea, walked through village streets, filmed ancient gardens and sacred temples, and toured three universities. We traveled the Li River by riverboat and bamboo rafts and took a cinematographer’s dream ride up Huangshan Mountain by cable car. The visit to this awe-inspiring UNESCO World Heritage site included a “walk” up and down 10,000 steps along with thousands of Chinese families whose children reveled in hearing the echo of their voices bounce off picturesque peaks bearing names such as “Refreshing Terrace” and “Flying Stone”—all while carrying more than forty pounds of camera equipment.

If you are wondering why I didn’t film the famous Terracotta Warriors . . . I captured close-ups at the Indianapolis Children’s Museum where I was allowed to film on a press pass. The irony of filming the Warriors so near “home” (the Workshop) for a film about colleagues across the world would not have escaped Lin and Vincent! A born and raised Hoosier (me) drives to The Capital of Hoosier-land to film Chinese warriors on her way to China to shoot on location about two famous IU scholars.

What an amazing visit with our wonderful China colleagues. —Barbara Allen

After hearing from several colleagues that “I must go to China” to learn firsthand about the impact of the Ostroms’ work in China, I began to assemble a small film crew to join me on a whirlwind trip. All three film crew members paid their own airfare and two volunteered their time to handle basic tasks: sound, audio recording, still photography, and location producer/coordinator. A fourth crew member became ill three days prior to departure. My hope is that she will be able to use her airline tickets and join me for a future trip to Seoul, South Korea, where T. K. Ahn has raised funds for me to visit in early spring of 2015. I was very fortunate to work again with Bishnu Kalpit, an award-winning cinematographer from Nepal.

After contacting colleagues in Beijing, Hangzhou, Taiwan, and Hong Kong, I began the challenging task of scheduling interviews and planning our itinerary. Our China trip included filming locations that would help visually represent the vastness of this beautiful country, a country that, as Vincent often explained, had a profound effect on his thinking. Although we saw many sites during our 18 days of filming, “sightseeing,” in the vacation sense of the word, was not an apt description for this “outward bound” adventure. Some days began at 5:00 a.m.; others ended at 3:00 a.m.

We arrived in Beijing on July 1 and hit the ground running with nine interviews and an equal number of traditional Chinese dining experiences arranged by our gracious hosts. I would like to particularly thank Professors Youhong Chen and Yahua (Bert) Wang for the work they did in making so many arrangements. Professor Chen worked very hard to raise funds that allowed us to travel throughout Beijing and Hebei Province so we could spend time with colleagues and students during fabulous meals, classroom visits, and travel to a distant part of the Great Wall. Professor Wang spent hours with me during our very busy WOWS schedules to make sure we would have everything that we needed for interviews and location filming.

It was a unique opportunity to be with new and old colleagues, some of whom I had not seen in 20 years. Interviews in Beijing included: Lan Xue (Professor and Dean, School of Public Policy and Management, Tsinghua University), Jinpeng Huai (President of Beihang University), Shoulong Mao (Director, Professor, Department of Public Administration, Renmin University), Mei Li (spouse of Professor Shoulong Mao, and a great influence on Vincent’s ideas about Li-Fa relationships), Professor Youhong Chen (Department of Public Administration, Renmin University), Professor Yahua (Bert) Wang (School of Public Policy and Management, Tsinghua University), Associate Professor Jianxun Wang (China University of Political Science and Law), Professor Lihua Yang (Beihang University), Professor Junning Liu (Beijing, founder of the journal Res Publica). In Hangzhou: Professor Xunda Yu (College of Public Administration, Zhejiang University). In Hong Kong: Professor Wai Fung (Danny) Lam (Dean of Social Sciences, University of Hong Kong) and Professor Tai Shuenn (Spencer) Yang (China Cultural University, Taipei).
We also met many graduate students from three universities in Beijing who served as our interpreters and guides. I was very impressed by their grasp of the Ostroms’ work and their enthusiasm for how they intend to apply their understanding of “Ostrom concepts” in their future careers across a broad spectrum of public administration, business, and industry positions. As we toured the Great Wall, Jiaze (Cello) Wu, a Tsinghua University grad student, explained to me what polycentricity could mean in China, while classes taught by Professor Yahua Wang enabled her to meet part of the next generation of students who are finding new ways of using such ideas—even as they consider Professor Wang’s studying of irrigation institutions and farming records that go back 2,000 years.

By request, we also were honored to meet with and interview the president of Beihang University and the dean of School of Public Policy and Management at Tsinghua University who had previously met with the Ostroms and wanted to share their thoughts and experiences. We visited Professor Lihua Yang’s lab—the Workshop for Environmental Governance and Sustainability Science—at Beihang University. And I had the opportunity, as often happens on these occasions, to address groups of graduate students spontaneously in Professor Yang’s class on institutional analysis.

We learned about The China Ostrom Society from one of its founders, Professor Jianxun Wang. During our interview, Professor Wang also had explained how one of Vincent Ostrom’s guiding lights, Alexis de Tocqueville, had inspired Professor Wang’s journey to the United States and first meetings with Vincent. We were then delighted to meet members of The China Ostrom Society during a final gathering organized by Professor Chen at Renmin University. T-shirts with photos of Lin and Vincent were passed out to all who attended. Large portraits of the Ostroms were hung in the conference room and a table displayed all the Ostrom books translated into Chinese. A large arrangement of flowers in the center of a long conference table signaled the level of formality. Workshoppers, members of the Homeowners Association influenced by the Ostroms’ ideas on self-governance, and other distinguished guests from Beijing addressed the gathering in Chinese. I was the only person who had an interpreter sitting next to me, but the other members of the film crew could decipher a bit of the conversation, as every few sentences contained the familiar names, “Tocqueville” or “Ostrom.”

Professor Shoulong Mao and Mei Li were kind to offer their interviews in Chinese, knowing that I hope to make a film that goes beyond the bounds of the United States and English to embrace the global Workshop enterprise that Lin and Vincent have inspired. Professor Mao described the process of translating the Ostroms’ writings and the impact these works have had upon a generation of scholars and practitioners of public administration—and thus upon China’s recent economic and social reforms.

Professor Junning Liu explained the vulnerabilities and potentials of reform movements in terms that Vincent would especially have appreciated. He also spoke to the importance of understanding cultural, temporal, and locational differences in generalizing principles of self-governance as well as lessons from the founding of Res Publica, echoing Vincent’s admonitions that scholars be vigilant in their care and concern for an open public realm.

Lin and Vincent would have very much enjoyed knowing that Mr. Dajie Bai, who was their driver when one or both of them visited China, was also our driver for three days. The China Ostrom Society honored him for the photo book that he published about Lin and Vincent’s visits. Mr. Bai, among many things, drove us to the Great Wall and brought along lychee fruit and watermelon for us to share on the side of the road. He also drove us to the train station and bought a ticket (which he refunded later) so he could enter through security to make sure we not only got on the right train but also entered the right car and sat in the right seat. (None of which would have been easy without his help.) His most generous gift, however, was a USB drive filled with all the photos he took of the Ostroms during their China trips.

Among the very special people attending our final gathering were three leaders of the Chinese Homeowners Association who work with Professor Youhong Chen. Professor Chen’s work with these individuals includes reading and discussing Governing the Commons and learning how to apply self-governing concepts to the many tasks involved in the successful nature of co-op governance. Some of you may remember that members of this association also attended WOW4. After learning that former villagers now living in what they call “stranger communities” in large apartment complexes are reading the Ostroms’ books, I vowed never again to listen to my students complain about how difficult the Ostroms’ ideas are!

From Beijing we traveled by the fast train to Shanghai (five hours) where following a night of rest, we were picked up early and taken by van to Hangzhou to see West Lake, one of the Ostroms’ favorite sites. The next morning we were able to conduct a lengthy interview with Professor Xunda Yu of the
Actual World (cont.)

College of Public Administration, Zhejiang University. For some time, I had been attempting to locate Professor Yu, who had translated Governing the Commons. Just as I was leaving Beijing, we made contact when, standing among thousands of travelers in the Shanghai train depot, Mr. Bai, received a phone call from Professor Chen: “Professor Yu can meet with Barbara; here is the phone number.” After numerous calls involving several people (Mr. Bai does not speak English and I do not speak Chinese), Professor Yu and I were successfully coordinated.

Throughout our interviews and conversations with people in China, we were struck by the depth of gratitude, personal and professional, that our colleagues expressed toward Vincent and Lin. It was not uncommon to hear statements such as, “I would not be where I am today without their support.” A significant moment in the trip occurred when I sat down to interview Professor Yu in Hangzhou. First, he succinctly outlined four reasons why the Ostroms’ work has had such a tremendous impact on Chinese scholarship. (I was struck by how closely they resemble the “Five Lessons” I outlined for the film’s framework.) Nothing prepared us for his stunningly powerful statement: “Some people think the reform in China began with the openness from 1978. For others, we know it began with the translation of the Ostroms’ books into Chinese.”

The last leg of our trip took us to Hong Kong where we met Danny Lam and Spencer Yang, who graciously flew in from Taipei. Spencer was on a tight schedule, so in spite of our long travel day and his, my crew cheerfully accommodated the schedule and we began our interview at 10:00 p.m., ending around midnight. We talked about constitutional order and present-day politics in Taiwan as well as what it had been like for Spencer to work with Vincent on an award-winning political theory dissertation. The next day, I interviewed Danny on topics that ranged from his work with Lin on farmer-managed irrigation systems in Nepal and Taiwan to reflections on Lin and Vincent’s influence on his life. Following our interview, Danny treated us to a personal view of his city. We spent the day touring beautiful parks where we could see the natural world filmed against the skyline of this fast-paced city. We took Danny to a new Hong Kong brew-pub that I had read about (and felt pretty smug that he had not yet heard of it).

In my role as a documentary filmmaker, it is challenging to visually represent or grasp the significance of the translation of the Ostroms’ books into Chinese. We can take photos of the books and film individuals talking about how access to the ideas in the books has had an impact on the way they think, approach problems, and identify solutions. But photos and words still do not begin to capture the essence and vastness of China in relationship to the impact of the Ostroms.

We do know that for Vincent, “China” was an idea as well as a physical reality. He was interested in village life—how people worked the irrigation system, how the village got its water. I wanted to connect with these ideas through seeing the physical reality of such a vast landscape—to go to the areas that have inspired great works of art—artifacts of culture in folk tradition and high art. Vincent loved and understood artisanship. Among his library holdings were books on the Great Wall, the Terracotta Warriors, and silk paintings of Huangshan Mountain and Li River near Yangshou. I chose these parts of my visit with great care after researching specific locations and reviewing photos and books that reflected Vincent’s interest.

Lin was extremely interested in the urban landscape and the future of the world’s environment. They both were committed throughout their lives to ideas surrounding self-governance and how people apply these ideas across many arenas including the management of irrigation systems, forests, or apartment buildings.

These thoughts informed my vision for how to integrate the physical reality and beauty of China with the “words” spoken by our China colleagues. These ideas percolated in my mind during our hike along the Great Wall, the cable car ride and 10,000 steps of Yellow Mountain, and the journey down the Li River. All gave me perspective and an opportunity to go beyond the words and internalize the meaning.

As I complete my travels for the documentary about Lin and Vincent and the Workshop, I cannot say enough about the generosity of our colleagues. Their deep connection to Lin and Vincent is both personal and professional. If there is one thing I have come to realize, it is this:

The “Workshop,” in its truest sense of the word as defined by Lin and Vincent, is not a group of buildings located in Bloomington, Indiana. It resides in the hearts and minds and work of people all around the globe.

Tai Shuenn (Spencer) Yang

Photography by Joan Griffith, Barbara Allen, and Bishnu Kalpit. Filming made possible by generous support from CHS Foundation, The China Ostrom Society, and our colleagues in China and Hong Kong.

See videos as they post:
http://ostromthemovie.tumblr.com/

Watch the new video on Lin’s work in Nepal:
https://vimeo.com/110829684
The following are active working groups at the Ostrom Workshop:

**APPLIED COMMUNITY COMMONS** (Coordinators: Carrie Lawrence and Ryan Conway)

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 will be hosting regular Friday meetings—from 11:30 a.m.—1:00 p.m. in the Ostrom Room—which will include guest speakers, panels, round-table discussions, and research workshops. We will also host events on campus and in town, including Community Commons Potlucks. For more information, please visit our website (http://communitycommonsproject.tumblr.com) or e-mail us (communitycommonsproject@gmail.com).

**ELECTRIC ENERGY** (Coordinators: Elizabeth Baldwin and 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** (Coordinators: Mike McGinnis and Joan Pong Linton)

The entire array of physical, financial, human, and social resources related to public health and medical care can be understood as a “health commons.” Regions in the United States vary dramatically in the cost, utilization, quality, and outcomes of health care, and this working group was inspired by the question of whether this regional variation is related to how well community or regional health care systems have been managed in the past. This working group began in 2010 with a grant from the Fannie E. Rippel Foundation for a research project led by Mike McGinnis. Members of this research team interviewed approximately 50 health care and other community leaders in each of three communities to assess the extent to which they act as effective stewards of local health-related resources. These assessments were initially based on the list of design principles that Lin Ostrom identified in her research on community-based management of natural resources, but we found that this list needed some revisions when applied to health and health care. Basically, every community can showcase diverse examples of successful collective action focused on specific issues of quality improvement or health promotion, but few communities have found a way to sustain and coordinate these programs. In hopes of building momentum toward significant improvements in Bloomington and surrounding counties, Joan Pong Linton followed up on a community recommendation that came out of this research project by organizing a conference to facilitate campus-community partnerships. This conference is focused on development of a new web-based Health Connections Commons, with the function of helping participants make on-the-ground connections for collective action on issues of health and wellness.

Members of this working group have developed new courses, written papers and made presentations, and remain engaged in efforts to develop collaborative relationships with other interested scholars and practitioners. Thus far, this working group has focused on issues facing the US health care system through the lenses of local communities, but we are definitely interested in expanding our horizons to explore how this commons perspective may (or may not) prove relevant for the very difficult issues facing developing countries and emerging economies. Anyone interested in exploring any of these topics is encouraged to contact either of the coordinators.

**INSTITUTIONS, BEHAVIOR, AND POLICY OUTCOMES** (Coordinators: Salvador Espinosa and Saba Siddiki)

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.
POWER IN INSTITUTIONS AND INSTITUTIONAL ANALYSIS

(Administrators: Prakash Kashwan, Gustavo Garcia Lopez, Eric Coleman, and Insa Theesfeld)

Institutional analysis has contributed path-breaking insights to our understanding of the conditions that enable groups of individuals to overcome social dilemmas. The institutional theories developed at the Workshop have sometimes been criticized for not being attentive enough to the issues of power. While power is not completely absent in the Workshop’s institutional theories or analytic approaches, the key question is about the conceptualization of power. Arguably, the analytic approach of the Workshop’s approach, which is shared by many of the new institutionalists, is that power is equated to the bargaining power between individuals. What we have to think about, then, is what the focus on bargaining power reveals and what it obscures. What don’t we see as a result of the way that power is conceptualized and incorporated more implicitly, rather than explicitly?

Participants in this working group turn to theories of power to think about how we might explicitly conceptualize power in the institutional theories and methods developed at the Workshop. Specifically, we aim to develop our understanding of power in two related areas: theoretically grounded conceptualizations of power and its relation to institutions, and operationalization and measurement of power in collective-action situations.

Regarding the conceptual dimension, some of the main questions this group seeks to address are: How do power asymmetries affect the deliberation, design, and enforcement of institutions across different contexts? For instance, how might incorporation of power help us sharpen our understanding of the complexities surrounding the concepts that are at the very foundation of institutional analysis, e.g., choice and choice sets, incentives, reciprocity, trust, monitoring and enforcement, and compliance? How do the effects of ‘power over’ and ‘power to’ interact, and what factors, such as polycentric institutions and social movements, influence the predominance of one versus the other in a particular collective action situation? What do we learn by conceptualizing ‘power’ as a ‘resource’ individuals and groups of individuals might leverage to pursue varied goals? On the other hand, we think it is important to conceive of ways in which constructive power can be deployed to overcome the undesirable aspects of power. Might ‘trust’ and ‘social capital’ work as the forces that lead to undermining of power relations and progressive realization of relatively egalitarian outcomes? Regarding operationalization, some of the main questions are: In what ways can we formally classify and observe different dimensions of power? And how might field research and analytical approaches be bolstered to account for the effects of power in realms as diverse as collective action and coercive regulation? Are different concepts derived from fundamentally different sets of epistemological and ontological perspectives, and hence, essentially incommensurable?

These questions, we believe, are important not only for our theories of institutional origins and change but also for understanding and addressing real world problems around the world. This working group is intended to facilitate collaborative research and scholarship among a network of scholars interested in the questions at the intersection of institutions and power.

PROPERTY, SOVEREIGNTY, AND JURISDICTION

(Administrator: Daniel Cole)

The Working Group on Property, Sovereignty, and Jurisdiction 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).

Contact information for Working Group coordinators is available at:
http://www.indiana.edu/~workshop/research/workinggroups/index.php
Fall Kick-Off BBQ
9/5/14
Fall 2014

Live Streaming: MONDAY colloquia presentations are now streamed live

Presentations are broadcast at: http://www.indiana.edu/~video/stream/liveflash.html?filename=Workshop_Colloquium

Archive stream URLs are posted at: http://www.indiana.edu/~workshop/colloquia/colloquiumseries/index.php

SEPT 8 • Professor Joseph Arvas, Department of Geography, University of Calgary, Alberta, Canada, “An Appeal for Smarter Decisions”

SEPT 10 • Dr. Dalson Britto Figueiredo Filho, Department of Political Science, Federal University of Pernambuco, Brazil; Workshop Visiting Scholar, “Campaign Spending, Poverty Levels and Electoral Outcomes in Brazil”

SEPT 17 • Jagmohan Meher, Senior Fulbright-Nehru Fellow, Department of Political Science, IUB, “Pakistan’s Strategic Obsession and the Road to Catastrophe: Is There a Way Out?”

SEPT 22 • Professor Kerry Krutilla, School of Public & Environmental Affairs, IUB, “The Political Transaction Costs and Uncertainties of Establishing Environmental Rights”

SEPT 24 • Justin Schon, PhD student, Department of Political Science, IUB, “Should I Stay or Should I Go? Explaining the Relationship between Information Flows and Displacement”

SEPT 29 • Dr. Linda Prokopy, Department of Forestry and Natural Resources, Purdue University, “Identifying Social Capacity to Address Nonpoint Source Pollution”

OCT 1 • Marina Mivasko, PhD fellow, Department of Land, Environment, Agriculture and Forestry, University of Padua, Legnaro, Italy; Workshop Visiting Scholar, “Forest Cooperation Forms and Governance Settings in South Eastern European Context: General Overview of Croatia and Serbia”

OCT 6 • Professor Beth Plale, School of Informatics and Computing, IUB, “Data Provenance and Agent Based Models: Technological Contributions to Social Ecological Systems Research”

OCT 8 • Julia Talbot-Jones, PhD candidate, Crawford School of Public Policy, Australian National University; Workshop Visiting Scholar, “Giving Rights to Nature: A New Institutional Approach for Overcoming Social Dilemmas?”

OCT 13 • Professor Kenneth Richards, School of Public & Environmental Affairs, IUB, “Governments’ Environmental Policy Instruments: A Brief Overview of a New(ish) Framework”

OCT 15 • Melf-Hinrich Ehlers, James Hutton Institute, Aberdeen, Scotland, UK; Workshop Visiting Scholar, “Messy and Technical Governance of Renewable Energy: An Institutional Analysis of Consenting Biogas Plants in Germany”

OCT 20 • Professor Gary Goertz, Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies, University of Notre Dame, “International Regional Governance: The Evolution of a New Institutional Form”

OCT 22 • Professor Christos Kalantari-dis, School of Management, University of Bradford, UK; Workshop Visiting Scholar, “University-Industry Knowledge Transfer through an Institutionalist Lens: Of Actors, Rules and Power in Greater Manchester, England”

OCT 27 • Dr. Cali Curley, School of Public & Environmental Affairs, IUPUI, “Coding Formal Citizen Input Mechanisms in Local Government Charters”

OCT 29 • Dr. Mark Stephen, Department of Political Science and Program in Criminology, Washington State University; Workshop Visiting Scholar, “Polycentricity and the Dispersal of Hierarchy: Digging into Vincent Ostrom’s Work”

NOV 3 • Dr. Simon DeDee, School of Informatics and Computing, IUB, “Wikipedia and the Microphysics of Political Order”

NOV 5 • Dr. Walter Salas Zapata, School of Microbiology, University of Antioquia, Colombia; Workshop Visiting Scholar, “A Model for Analyzing Sustainability of Malaria Control Policies: A Case Study at the Municipality of El Bagre (Colombia)”

NOV 10 • Travis Selmier, Workshop Affiliated Faculty, and W. Knaedel Wimencq, Department of Political Science, IUB, “Financial Risk as a Common Pool: Competition, Capture, and Governance of a Networked System”

NOV 12 • Dr. Arho Toikka, Department of Social Research, University of Helsinki, Finland; Workshop Visiting Scholar, “Policy Regimes, Latent Constitutive Institutions, and Machine Learning Methodology: Examples from EU Energy Policy and City of Helsinki Environmental Policy”

NOV 17 • Dr. Matthew Hoffman, Department of Political Science, University of Toronto, Canada, “Catalyzing Transformative Pathways to Decarbonization”

NOV 19 • Dr. Christopher Gore, Department of Politics and Public Administration, Ryerson University, Toronto, Canada, “What is Africa’s ‘Energy’ Problem? Lessons from Uganda”

DEC 1 • Giovanni Luca Ciampaglia, Postdoctoral fellow, Center for Complex Networks and Systems Research, IUB, “The Production of Information in the Attention Economy”

DEC 3 • Ursula Kreitman, PhD student, SPEA & Department of Political Science, IUB, “TBA”

DEC 8 • Professor Cynthia Bannon, Department of Classical Studies, IUB, “Finding a ‘Commons’ in Roman Law (Public and Private Water Rights)”

DEC 10 • Hong (Anna) Zhang, PhD student, Department of Public Management, Nanjing University, China; Workshop Visiting Scholar, “TBA”
This seminar, to be held at the Ostrom Workshop, will address the roles that institutional arrangements, and especially the interactions among institutions, play in human efforts to govern and manage natural resources sustainably. A particular focus of the seminar in Spring 2015 will be on polycentricity. We will explore, converse, and write about the concept of polycentricity and how it has been defined, operationalized, and observed in natural resource governance situations. Polycentric institutional arrangements have been a core concern of the Workshop since its founding, and we still have plenty to do as we work on identifying, analyzing, and evaluating polycentricity at work in natural resource (as well as many other) settings.

We will draw upon many readings, ranging from some that predate the Workshop to works in progress today. We will also engage several scholars from within and beyond Indiana University who have worked on, debated, applied, and critiqued the concept of polycentricity.

As always in the Workshop seminar, we will actively discuss the works we read, the scholars we meet, and our own ideas and writings on the seminar topics. Students are required to write brief weekly discussion papers, a research bibliography, and a final paper that combines a literature review on the concept of polycentricity with identifying a natural resource situation to which the concept might be applied, setting forth hypotheses for future work applying the concept to that situation, and articulating a plan for pursuing that research. The paper will be presented at the Miniconference, which will be held during exam week at the end of the semester.

Institutions and the Governance of Natural Resources

Instructor for Spring 2015:
Professor William Blomquist, Dean of the School of Liberal Arts, IUPUI

Berlin Workshop in Institutional Analysis of Social-Ecological Systems

WINS is an academic forum dedicated to the mission of identifying, decoding, and designing institutional structures that shape and regularize social-ecological interactions toward a more sustainable outcome. In doing so, the prime modus operandi of WINS is to function as an interdisciplinary research and communication center for the various extant analytical frameworks involved in the institutional analysis of social-ecological systems (SES).

WINS is situated as a permanent workshop in IRI-THESys, the Integrative Research Institute at Humboldt University devoted to the study of “Transformations of Human-Environment Systems”—an avant-garde scheme of Humboldt University as part of the German Excellence Initiative. WINS is not only guided by the in-house research staff at Humboldt University Berlin but also collaborates with high-profile partners across the world.

Dan Cole spent five weeks this summer in residence at Humboldt University, working with fellow Affiliated Faculty members Konrad Hagedorn and Andreas Thiel, as well as with other Humboldt faculty and PhD students, on various projects, including the inauguration on July 16, 2014, of WINS (http://www.wins.hu-berlin.de/).

Professor Cole presented a paper (currently under submission at Policy Studies Journal) on the role of formal legal rules in the IAD framework at the WINS Inception Conference, where Tom Evans officially represented the Ostrom Workshop. Several other Workshop Affiliated Faculty members attended the event, which fortunately coincided with Germany’s World Cup victory. Professor Cole also presented a paper on combining the IAD and SES frameworks at a regular seminar of Humboldt’s IRI-THESys.

After a hiatus of two years, this semester heralds the rebirth of a long-standing Workshop tradition, what we call a “book party” and the rest of the world would label as a draft manuscript review session. The manuscript being reviewed/celebrated this time was Dispute System Design: Preventing, Managing, and Resolving Conflict, coauthored by Lisa Blomgren Amsler (from SPEA and the Ostrom Workshop), Janet Martinez, and Stephanie Smith. In this book, under contract at Stanford University Press, the authors lay out a framework for understanding the practical organization and ethical implications of alternative forms of dispute resolution and apply this framework to a wide range of empirical contexts, ranging from labor-management disputes to claims for damages from natural disasters or oil spills to transitional justice and international arbitration. Held on October 28–29, local commenters were joined by visitors Mariana Hernandez Crespo and Nancy Welsh, and a fine time was had by all.

—Mike McGinnis

Lee Alston was interviewed by BBC Radio on September 9 for “Giant Otters in the Pantanal,” which is available on Shared Planet (http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b04g8hrb).

Krister Andersson gave a presentation at IUB on October 31 entitled “Institutional Diversity and Local Forest Governance in Bolivia” as part of SPEA’s Governance & Management Research Speaker Series.

Eduardo Brondizio was one of the featured speakers at the Columbia University and CIFOR forum on “Forests and Climate: New Thinking for Transformational Change,” on the campus of Columbia University during the UN Climate Summit (September 22–26). His talk, “Evolutionary Governance for Land Stewardship” (http://www.cifor.org/colloquium-on-forests-and-climate/), was inspired by a commentary article written by Lin Ostrom in 2012 on the eve of the UN Rio+20 conference.


Jampel Dell’Angelo has taken a new position as Postdoctoral Fellow at the National Socio-Environmental Synthesis Center (SESYNC), University of Maryland.

Julia Duany is assisting in a USAID-funded project that has brought 14 South Sudan scholars to the IU campus this fall (see http://news.indiana.edu/releases/iu/2014/09/sudan-scholars-iubloomington.shtml).

Lilian Márquez is now Faculty, Head of Biodiversity at the Mahindra United World College of India.

Mike McGinnis gave the Keynote Lecture at the IASC 2nd Thematic Conference on Knowledge Commons: Governing Pooled Knowledge Resources, NYU School of Law, September 5–6.

Leticia Merino gave a presentation at the Ostrom Workshop on “International Association for the Study of Commons and the EU’s Intergroup & Manifesto for Commons,” as part of the Applied Community Commons Working Group Colloquium Series on November 7.

Harini Nagendra, School of Development, Azim Premji University, has written a blog post on “The Cooperative Governance of Urban Commons” (The Nature of Cities, May 28).

The Journal of Institutional Economics’ inaugural Elinor Ostrom Prize was awarded to Fabio Landini for his article “Institutional Change and Information Production,” JOIE 9(3) (2013): 257–84.

Keith Taylor gave a presentation on “The American Co-Op Business Sector: What American and Italian Researchers Can Learn From Each Other” to Professor Paolo Graziano’s Public Policy Analysis class at Bocconi University, Milan, Italy, on September 30.

A group of university researchers affiliated with IASC has founded a new Internet-based research network called Workshop on Governing Knowledge Commons (http://www.iasc-commons.org/blog/commons-action-new-video-knowledge-commons).

Happy Holidays!