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INDIANA UNIVERSITY

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Polycentric Circles

The Ostrom Workshop Bi-Weekly Newsletter

News and Events



Reflections on This Past Year from Executive Director Scott Shackelford

This past year was unprecedented on a number of fronts, challenging many of the central convening functions at the core of the Ostrom Workshop community. Would it be possible to host stimulating, engaging discussions that are part and parcel of our weekly colloquium and research series and that have been running in person for nearly a half century online? In what ways could we make the Workshop, a community known for the study of institutions and commons governance, be a relevant—and even vital—contributor as the globe faces a daunting and complex public health situation?

I could not be more proud of all the ways we approached these challenges, and so many others over the course of this year. Not only did we successfully move all of our regular and special events online, but we witnessed record-breaking participation when we did. Nor did we put off making progress on our strategic plans until the pandemic subsided. Indeed, rather than cancelling our special Governing the Commons: 30 Years Later conference, organized by newly minted Senior Research Fellow and Professor Eduardo Brondizio, we changed course and created a compelling agenda that drew more than 1,000 participants from around the world. Our Political Economy Program was relaunched this year, and took the

lead in spearheading the Workshop's Governance in Times of Pandemic Initiative. We launched an entirely new program, Governing the Commons, directed by Professor Bill Blomquist, in celebration of Lin's pioneering work in this field. We also launched a new podcast series—the Governance Roundtable of the Ostrom Workshop—re-envisioned the research series to include a new Ostrom Book Club, co-sponsored a series of events with the Democracy Themester, were recognized with more than \$3 million in new grants, and celebrated the unveiling of a new statue (the first celebrating a woman on IU's Bloomington Campus) situated in the newly renamed Ostrom Commons.

I want to thank all of our amazing staff members – Emily Castle, Gayle Higgins, David Price, and Allison Sturgeon – for their outstanding work during this challenging period, and to our Program Directors for their diligence. We hope all of you have a peaceful and productive summer break, and look forward to seeing you this Fall! Best wishes,
-Scott



Listen to the Latest GROW Podcast

Enjoy our third episode in the Sustainable Food Systems Science series with guest **Kurt Waldman**, Geography professor at IU, who reflects on the path that led him to Sustainable Food Systems and the work in which he is currently involved.

Our GROW podcasts are available on Spotify, Stitcher, iTunes, and Soundcloud, and can also be accessed from our [website](#).

Workshop Names Two New Senior Research Fellows for 2021

Eduardo Brondizio and Harini Nagendra are the latest to receive this distinguished honor



Eduardo Brondizio Harini Nagendra

Affiliates who have attained the rank of associate or full professor and made extraordinary contributions over an extended period of time to the Ostrom Workshop via scholarship, service, and/or teaching are selected by the Workshop Advisory Council (WAC) to become Senior Research Fellows. This year, the WAC awarded the honor to both **Eduardo Brondizio** and **Harini Nagendra**.

Eduardo Brondizio, *Distinguished Professor, Anthropology, IU*, has been a Workshopper since he arrived at IU, has continued to serve in various capacities, and personifies the Workshop's most important values, including both collaboration and contestation. Not only is Eduardo a world-class scholar, but a world-class colleague as well.

Harini Nagendra, *Professor of Sustainability, Azim Premji University*, has a long and impactful history with the Ostrom Workshop. Among her many contributions, she has collaborated closely with Lin Ostrom, Burney Fischer, and others on the International Forestry Research Initiative (IFRI) and was the Asia Director for IU's Center for the Study of Institutions, Population and Environmental Change (CIPEC). Through her association with and contributions to the Ostrom Workshop and the global scholarly community, she clearly merits the status of Ostrom Workshop Senior Research Fellow.

Colloquium Series, Research Series, and Tocqueville Lectures

Our lecture series will be returning in the Fall of 2021. Follow our events page and sign up to our mailing lists to stay up-to-date on all the opportunities available to stay engaged with the Ostrom Workshop.

Note: We are still looking for affiliates interested in presenting a Colloquium during the next academic year. Colloquiums are held each week on Monday from 12:00 to 1:00 pm (ET). Speakers present a complete draft paper that has not been submitted for publication. The first 15 minutes allow for a formal presentation followed by 45 minutes of

discussion. If interested, submit your title and abstract for the Colloquium Committee's review to [Allison Sturgeon](#). We will inform you of the committee's decision during the summer after which possible dates can be discussed.

Also, if you're looking for something new to binge watch, many of our past lecture presentations are available on our [YouTube channel](#) for your viewing pleasure.

Ostrom Workshop Affiliate Kelly Eskew Wins a 2021 Campus Catalyst Award

Since 2021, the annual Campus Catalyst Awards have recognized individuals, departments, and offices that have made a significant difference in the classroom, on campus, and within the community - to exemplify IU's continuing efforts to become a sustainable institution and set an example for environmental stewardship and responsibility.

This year, Workshop Affiliate, [Kelly Eskew](#), won the Excellence in Teaching Award, for excellence in developing pedagogy and curriculum, which reinforce and advance principles of sustainability through course design and instruction at Indiana University, Bloomington. [Full article](#).

Thank you for reading. As we come to the end of another term, Polycentric Circles will be put on pause until Fall, 2021. We hope you enjoy reading our bi-weekly newsletter, but if you feel the need to unsubscribe from Polycentric Circles, please use the "unsubscribe" feature below.

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