



# NATURAL RESOURCE GOVERNANCE SEMINAR SERIES

## Hannah Wiseman

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Federal Laboratories of Democracy

**FEBRUARY 5, 2018**

**4:30–6:00 PM**

**MAURER SCHOOL OF LAW,  
FACULTY CONFERENCE ROOM (3RD FLOOR)**



Facilitating state policy experimentation is an oft-cited justification for the U.S. federalism system. Despite growing recognition of risk aversion, free riding, and other disincentives to state-led experimentation, the mythology of state laboratories still dominates these accounts. We propose a framework that counters this assumption and enables more productive analysis of policy experimentation, and we apply this new analytical framework to case studies from divergent policy areas, including agricultural, natural resources, and education law. These examples highlight rigorous experiments designed and largely administered by federal agencies. Our framework and case studies turn the concept of the “laboratories of the states” on its head, showing that experimentation can and often does occur at multiple levels. In countering and adding nuance to traditional experimentation accounts, the Article also reveals the benefits of federal involvement in policy experiments, and thus the perils of weakening federal authority in an effort to enhance core federalism values like experimentation.

Hannah Wiseman received her A.B. from Dartmouth College and her J.D. from Yale Law School. She then clerked for Judge Patrick Higginbotham of the federal Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals. She is currently the Attorneys’ Title Professor at the Florida State University College of Law. She has published in the *Georgetown Law Journal* and *NYU Law Review*, among others, and is a coauthor of the textbook *Energy, Economics, and the Environment*.



Presentations are open to the public. The draft paper will be posted prior to the presentation at: <https://ostromworkshop.indiana.edu/research/governance/index.html>. For questions, contact Allison Sturgeon (sturgeon@iu.edu; 812/855–3151).