COMMONS
POLYCENTRICITY
DEMOCRACY:
BUILDING UPON 50
YEARS OF
OSTROM GOVERNANCE
RESEARCH

Conference Program
50 Year Reflections
Welcome to Bloomington for the 7th Workshop on the Ostrom Workshop! Held every five years since 1994, the seventh WOW conference brings together researchers, students, and alumni to reconnect and meet new colleagues to explore a diverse range of topics and new approaches to the study of governance and institutions. The conference theme -- Commons, Polycentricty, and Democracy -- foregrounds the challenges of managing commons and public goods, as well as advancing internationally agreed goals for sustainable development, climate, and biodiversity, at a time of accelerated and conflicting social, environmental, and political changes.

During the 50 years of the Ostrom Workshop, the challenges of effective governance have become vastly more complex and transboundary in nature. Recent trends of increased regionalism and autocracy have tested the effectiveness of governance institutions at all levels. Increased political polarization compounds these challenges, constraining and often undermining more participatory forms of governance.

TOGETHER, WE HOPE WOW7 WILL BE AN OPPORTUNITY TO REFLECT ON TWO OVERARCHING QUESTIONS:

1. HOW ARE EXISTING GOVERNANCE INSTITUTIONS, AS WELL AS OUR APPROACHES TO STUDYING THEM, ADAPTING TO NEW CHALLENGES?

2. WHAT ANALYTIC ADVANCES CAN AID IN BRIDGING VASTLY DIFFERENT RESEARCH AND PRACTICE IN ADDRESSING GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONAL CHALLENGES AND HOW CAN THEY FACILITATE COMMUNICATION WITH POLICY MAKERS AND THE PUBLIC?

The community of scholars exploring governance and institutions for the management of a wide range of resource systems has grown to include new approaches, methodologies, and issue areas. Beyond the historical analysis of natural resource systems and the environment, new frontiers of governance, such as data, knowledge, outer space, health, internet, and cities have become part of the dynamic scholarship emerging in this space.

These trends are well reflected in the 7 tracks we used to organize the rich collection of panels and individual papers received. We have 60 panels, the largest WOW to date. You may view conference papers in the Digital Libraries of the Commons (DLC), a digital archive of papers associated with WOW housed under the Ostrom Workshop’s Library.

MAY WOW7 BE A TIME OF REUNITING WITH OLD FRIENDS, MEETING NEW COLLABORATORS, AND GROWING THE OSTROM FAMILY AND ITS TRADITION OF COLLEGIALITY, WORKING TOGETHER, AND RESPECTFUL CONTESTATION.
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

- **WELCOME**
- **MAP AND VENUES**
- **THE WHOVA APP & WOW7 SCHEDULE**
- **DIGITAL LIBRARY OF THE COMMONS**
- **THE AWARDS**
- **50 YEAR REFLECTIONS**
WOW7 VENUES

THE OSTROM WORKSHOP

513 N. Park Avenue (Park I pictured)
Check-in here on Tuesday. The Ostrom Room and the Tocqueville Room host panels during the conference. Coffee and snacks are in the kitchen and break area. Check out the 3rd floor library for a great place to gather, but don’t forget the new outdoor Pavilion and the front porch. The other three Workshop buildings are available for breakouts if requested. Check with Anna Goodman in Park I for access.

PRESIDENTS HALL

601 E Kirkwood Ave
Located inside the Media School historic Franklin Hall and next to the IU iconic Sample Gates, Presidents Hall is a beautiful favorite spot on campus. Come here for breakfast and the opening plenary on Wednesday and keep coming back for our All Conference gatherings.

IUMAA

416 N Indiana Ave
WOW7 hosts two tracks in the newly renovated Indiana University Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology (IUMAA). The museum is currently closed to the public as it is IU’s newest museum and they are working steadily to provide newly-designed exhibits and learning labs. We are lucky to be able to give this sneak peek and if it works out, you’ll be able to see several Ostrom artifacts on display.
THE MCCAUGA SCHOOL

To quote their website, "The historic McCalla School building is home to University Collections at McCalla (UCM), which engages students, faculty, visiting researchers, and public audiences with IU’s world-class collections that span disciplines, time periods, and geography."

We have three rooms at our disposal in McCalla and each has its own charm. This is a renovated school and it has phenomenal artwork on display. No food is allowed in the galleries, but DO tour the building and enjoy!!

COLLINS LIVING LEARNING CENTER

Welcome home to the Collins Living Learning Center! This is the home to the College of Arts and Sciences Living Learning Center during the year and we are happy to be able to offer this affordable housing option as our 'conference' lodging option.

Breakfast is offered in the Dottie Collins Commons dining area, renowned for being the most Hogwarts-like on campus.

LIN'S STATUE

Elinor Ostrom's statue is in the area behind Woodburn Hall, where she taught as a faculty member. The area is now known as the Ostrom Commons and it is noted on tours of campus as the first sculpture of a woman on IU's campus. Have a sit with her while you are here!

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE NOBEL, IT IS HOSTED IN THE LILLY LIBRARY FOR WOW7 PARTICIPANTS TO VIEW DURING THE CONFERENCE. ONE GREAT OPPORTUNITY IS BEFORE THE SPECIAL PANEL, "TREASURES FROM THE OSTROM PAPERS" IN THE LILY LIBRARY 2:45-4:15 PM ON THURSDAY, JUNE 20TH.
A dynamic map

SCAN FOR AN ONLINE MAP OF WOW7 LOCATIONS
KIRKWOOD (5TH STREET) & 4TH STREET --> FOOD!

Looking at Kirkwood avenue from the Sample Gates
Photo from: Visitbloomington.com

We hope you enjoy Kirkwood and 4th Street restaurants while you are here. Though we will have drinks and appetizers, Wednesday, and Thursday night dinners are on your own opportunities to reminisce or see all Bloomington has to offer for the first time.

You’ll find vegan and other great options at Farm,

Taste of India has the Workshop staff favorite Indian Food. MyThai is a local Thai choice - great for patio and for take out.

You can never go wrong with Michael’s Uptown Cafe. Osteria Rago has lovely wine and Italian.

Nick’s is a must for all IU Alums.

Craft beer fans have loads of choices, including Lenny’s (Bloomington Brewing Company), Big Woods, and Upland.

Just ask a local - you can’t go wrong!
WHOVA

Whova is the WOW7 conference app. Find the most accurate tracks, sessions, speakers, abstracts, meals, snacks, and communicate with your colleagues.

- View the event agenda and plan your personal schedule
- Access documents and slides
- Find who is attending WOW7 and reach out to discuss research questions
- Plan some social activities such as a morning run, coffee hours, or meet-ups with your fellow attendees.
- Receive updates such as last minute session changes from the organizers

Get Now Whova

https://go.iu.edu/8pQY/
Thank you sponsors! And check in options

Tuesday, Jun. 18

Check in or register at the Ostrom Workshop Park 1 Building for your Collins Room key, your badge, your drink tickets, visit the workshop and more.

1:00 PM - 5:00 PM
Ostrom Workshop
513 N. Park Avenue

Wednesday, Jun. 19

8:00 AM - 9:30 AM
Presidents Hall
601 E. Kirkwood Avenue

Check in and registration is available before and during the opening breakfast and plenary in Presidents Hall.

The Ostrom Workshop is very thankful to their IU Sponsors. A special thanks to IU Research for their support of students and scholars whose attendance would otherwise not have been possible. Your generosity helped make WOW7 a more diverse and inclusive event for all.
WED., JUNE 19, 2024
CHECK IN AND REGISTRATION
8:00 AM - 9:30 AM
PRESIDENT’S HALL IN FRANKLIN HALL
601 E KIRKWOOD AVE

BREAKFAST
8:00 AM - 10:00 AM
PRESIDENT’S HALL IN FRANKLIN HALL

WELCOME & PLENARY PANEL
8:30 AM - 9:50 AM
PRESIDENT’S HALL IN FRANKLIN HALL

9:50 AM - 10:10 AM
ALL CONFERENCE PHOTO LOCATION: SAMPLE GATES

PANEL DISCUSSION SESSION 1
10:30 AM - 12:00 PM
7 SUBSESSIONS

LUNCH
12:00 PM - 1:30 PM
PRESIDENT’S HALL IN FRANKLIN HALL

PANEL DISCUSSION SESSION 2
1:30 PM - 3:00 PM
7 SUBSESSIONS

PM BREAK
3:00 PM - 3:30 PM
OSTROM WORKSHOP; JUMAA; MCCALLA

PANEL DISCUSSION 3
3:30 PM - 5:00 PM
7 SUBSESSIONS

RECEPTION AND POSTER SESSION
SPONSORED BY THE KELLEY SCHOOL OF BUSINESS
5:30 PM - 7:00 PM
PRESIDENT’S HALL IN FRANKLIN HALL

DINNER ON YOUR OWN
# Panel Discussion Session 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Panel 1A</th>
<th>Panel 1B</th>
<th>Panel 1C</th>
<th>Panel 1D</th>
<th>Panel 1E</th>
<th>Panel 1F</th>
<th>Panel 1G</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10:30 am - 12:00 pm</td>
<td>Ostrom Workshop</td>
<td>Ostrom Workshop</td>
<td>IUMAA-111</td>
<td>IUMAA-100</td>
<td>McCalla-121</td>
<td>McCalla-120</td>
<td>McCalla-158</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mainstreaming power with game theory for institutional analysis</strong></td>
<td>Maria Claudia Lopez</td>
<td>Kristin Andersson, Yurul Li, Michael McGinnis</td>
<td>Chen Youhong, Bin Qin</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Jason Potts</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Follow these color codes to identify tracks:**
- Formal Institutions, Democracy, and Public Goods
- Grassroots, Local, and Urban Commons
- Cyber and Tech Governance
- Environmental Commons
- Polycentricity
- Broadening Methodologies and Approaches to the Commons
- Pushing Boundaries of the Commons
White = Available for small groups to meet

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# Panel Discussion Session 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Panel 2A</th>
<th>Panel 2B</th>
<th>Panel 2C</th>
<th>Panel 2D</th>
<th>Panel 2E</th>
<th>Panel 2F</th>
<th>Panel 2G</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1:30 pm - 3:00 pm</td>
<td>Similarities of Structure: Systems Theory and the Bloomington School</td>
<td>Cross-scale Information flows in polycentric commons governance</td>
<td>Polycentric governance and state-society relations</td>
<td>Governing Corporate Knowledge Commons</td>
<td>None</td>
<td></td>
<td>Grassroots Commons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Daniel Kronover</strong></td>
<td><strong>Tom Koontz</strong></td>
<td><strong>Andreas Thiel, Mark Stephan</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Tanya Hayes, Sergio Villamayor-Tomas</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
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# Panel Discussion Session 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Panel 3A</th>
<th>Panel 3B</th>
<th>Panel 3C</th>
<th>Panel 3D</th>
<th>Panel 3E</th>
<th>Panel 3F</th>
<th>Panel 3G</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3:30 pm - 5:00 pm</td>
<td>Rules in Use and the Institutional Grammar</td>
<td>Collective Action in Agroecosystems</td>
<td>Cases in State-Reinforced Self-Governance</td>
<td>Violence, Trust, and the Commons</td>
<td>None</td>
<td></td>
<td>Democracy and the Urban Commons in Latin America</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ute Brady</strong></td>
<td><strong>Landon Yoder, Min Woo Ahn</strong></td>
<td>Daniel A. DeCaro, Edella Schlager, Emmanuel Frimpong-Boamah</td>
<td>Britt Koelnlein</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Patricia Basile</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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ONLY CHAIRS ARE LISTED. SEE WHova FOR ALL THE PRESENTERS AND PAPER INFORMATION.
THURSDAY
JUNE 20, 2024

BREAKFAST
7:00 AM - 8:30 AM
DOTTIE COLLINS COMMONS DINING HALL

PANEL DISCUSSION 4
8:30 AM - 10:00 AM
7 SUBSESSIONS

VISIT THE NOBEL (ELINOR OSTROM, NOBEL PRIZE IN ECONOMIC SCIENCES ON DISPLAY IN THE LILLY LIBRARY)
9:30 AM - 5:45 PM

AM BREAK
10:00 AM - 10:30 AM
IUMAA, MCCALLA, OSTROM WORKSHOP

PANEL DISCUSSION 5
10:30 AM - 12:00 PM
7 SUBSESSIONS

BROWN BAG LUNCH
12:00 PM - 12:45 PM
AVAILABLE IN PANEL VENUES

PANEL DISCUSSION 6
12:45 PM - 2:15 PM
7 SUBSESSIONS

PM BREAK
2:15 PM - 2:45 PM
OSTROM WORKSHOP, IUMAA, MCCALLA

PANEL DISCUSSION 7
2:45 PM - 4:15 PM
8 SUBSESSIONS

CLOSING PLENARY
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM
PRESIDENT'S HALL IN FRANKLIN HALL

DINNER ON YOUR OWN

Note: Breakfast is served in the Dottie Collins Commons Thursday and Friday.
## PANEL DISCUSSION SESSION 4

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Room</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tocqueville</td>
<td>Ostrom</td>
<td>IUMAA-111</td>
<td>IUMAA-100</td>
<td>McCalla-121</td>
<td>McCalla-120</td>
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<tr>
<td>Panel 4A</td>
<td>Panel 4B</td>
<td>Panel 4C</td>
<td>Panel 4D</td>
<td>Panel 4E</td>
<td>None</td>
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<tr>
<td>Panel 4G</td>
<td>Panel 4H</td>
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<tr>
<td>8.30-10.00 am</td>
<td>8.30-10.00 am</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maria Angelica Toniolo, Raimundo Nonato Junior, Eduardo S. Bondilho</td>
<td>Felipe Martins, Ana C. M. de Souza, Oscar Ibarra, Marwan Alsharif, Aya Farhat</td>
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<tr>
<td>Next Steps for Advancing the Philanthropy Commons</td>
<td>Next Steps for Advancing the Philanthropy Commons</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yiqing Su, Yuri Liu, Lu Liu</td>
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## PANEL DISCUSSION SESSION 5

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Panel 5A</td>
<td>Panel 5B</td>
<td>Panel 5C</td>
<td>Panel 5D</td>
<td>Panel 5E</td>
<td>Panel 5F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methods &amp; Role Taxonomies and the Institutional Grammar</td>
<td>Long-term change and evolution in polycentric governance</td>
<td>Getting the institutions right in irrigation governance</td>
<td>Octrotti Goes to Space: Governing the Space Commons</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ute Brady, Tanya Heikila, Elizabeth Koebele</td>
<td>Sergio Villarroya-Tomass, Bryan Brians</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scott Shackelford</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.30 am - noon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Panos Mavromatidis, Yves Dendias, Tor Helge Blixen</td>
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## PANEL DISCUSSION SESSION 6

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Panel 6A</td>
<td>Panel 6B</td>
<td>Panel 6C</td>
<td>Panel 6D</td>
<td>Panel 6E</td>
<td>Panel 6F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic Experiments for the Environment (1)</td>
<td>Polycentric Federation and World Orders</td>
<td>Archetype analysis in environment and natural resource governance</td>
<td>Heterodox approaches</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natalie Stroeve, Oyebode K. Oyerinde, Ronggu Wang, Klaus Enderle</td>
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<tr>
<td>Insa Theesfeld</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seth Frey, Daniel Kronovet</td>
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<tr>
<td>12.45-2.15 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ulrike Schiessl, Lennart Pareto, Tom van der Duin</td>
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## PANEL DISCUSSION SESSION 7

<table>
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<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Panel 7A</td>
<td>Panel 7B</td>
<td>Panel 7C</td>
<td>Panel 7D</td>
<td>Panel 7E</td>
<td>Panel 7F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic Experiments for the Environment (2)</td>
<td>Applying Institutional analysis to study power and systems behaviour in polycentricity</td>
<td>Advancing knowledge about the fit between Institutions and Complex Social-Ecological Systems</td>
<td>Knowledge Commons and polycentricity in the arts</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Esther Blanco, Nora Schutze, Michael McGinnis, Graham Epstein, Eric Keller, Erwin Dekker, Seth Frey, Ndindi Kitonga</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.45-4.15 pm</td>
<td>2.45-4.15 pm</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Panos Mavromatidis, Yves Dendias, Tor Helge Blixen</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Follow these color codes to identify tracks:
- Formal Institutions: Democracy, and Public Goods
- Grassroots, Local, and Urban Commons
- Cyber and Tech Governance
- Environmental Commons
- Polycentricity
- Promising Methodologies and Approaches to the Commons
- Pushing Boundaries of the Commons
- While = Available for small groups to meet

Only chairs are listed. See who for all the presenters and paper information.
FRIDAY
JUNE 21, 2024

BREAKFAST
7:00 AM - 8:30 AM
DOTTIE COLLINS COMMONS

PANEL DISCUSSION 8
8:30 AM - 10:00 AM
7 SUBSESSIONS
VISIT THE NOBEL (ELINOR OSTROM, NOBEL
PRIZE IN ECONOMIC SCIENCES ON DISPLAY IN
THE LILLY LIBRARY)
9:30 AM - 4:45 PM

AM BREAK
10:00 AM - 10:30 AM
ALL LOCATIONS

PANEL DISCUSSION 9
10:30 AM - 12:00 PM
7 SUBSESSIONS

LUNCH
12:00 PM - 1:30 PM
PRESIDENT'S HALL

PANEL DISCUSSION 10
1:30 PM - 3:00 PM
7 SUBSESSIONS
KEYNOTE SUMMARY PANEL
3:30 PM - 5:00 PM
PRESIDENT'S HALL

TICKETED BANQUET AWARDS DINNER
5:30 PM - 8:00 PM
PRESIDENT'S HALL
## PANEL DISCUSSION SESSION 8

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tocqueville Room</th>
<th>Ostrom Room</th>
<th>IUMAA-111</th>
<th>IUMAA-100</th>
<th>McCalla-121</th>
<th>McCalla-120</th>
<th>McCalla-158</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Panel 8A</td>
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<td>Panel 8C</td>
<td>Panel 8D</td>
<td>Panel 8E</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Panel 8G</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**8:30 - 10:00 am**

- Interaction between formal and informal rules and the institutional Grammar
- Situation and transformation in social ecological systems research
- Can value chains steer agro-food systems?
- Institutional Resilience under Bureaucratic Authoritarianism in Brazil

**Speakers:**
- Ute Brady
- Christian Kimmich, Michael McGinnis
- Veronique de Herde, Aicha Mechri
- Vitor Martins Dias
- Elizabeth Baldwin
- Simon Sun

## PANEL DISCUSSION SESSION 9

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Panel 9A</th>
<th>Panel 9B</th>
<th>Panel 9C</th>
<th>Panel 9D</th>
<th>Panel 9E</th>
<th>Panel 9G</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10:30 am – noon</td>
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</table>

- Institutional Diversity and the Institutional Grammar
- Flavors of polycentricity: exploring institutional diversity and socio-ecological fit in polycentric governance arrangements
- Understanding the integrated socio-ecological dynamics of freshwater fisheries
- Bridging jurisdictional divides: Polycentric and Multi-level Governance for Climate Resilience and Sustainable Resource Management
- Adapting States: Communication technology and state capacity

**Speakers:**
- Ute Brady
- Elizabeth Baldwin, Edelia Schiager
- Lendro Castello, Eduardo S. Brondizio
- Yiran Wang
- Jessica Steinberg
- Sibyl Diver, Shane Day

## PANEL DISCUSSION SESSION 10

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Panel 10A</th>
<th>Panel 10B</th>
<th>Panel 10C</th>
<th>Panel 10D</th>
<th>Panel 10E</th>
<th>Panel 10G</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1:30 - 3:00 pm</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

- Perspectives for Integrating Power Theories in Institutional Analysis
- Governance of mineral extraction for energy transition
- Conceptual and epistemological explorations
- Historical Commons
- Reserved for Elizabeth Baldwin small group meeting
- Cutting-edge and age-old: Commons governance design and web3

**Speakers:**
- Hita Unnikrishnan, Verena Heckermann, Marta Gerullis
- Elke Keitner, Jessica Steinberg
- Graham Marshall, Barbara Allen, Ronald Gaiacson
- Federica Carugati
- Delia Schultz
THE DIGITAL LIBRARY OF THE COMMONS IS THE REPOSITORY FOR WOW PAPERS. PLEASE SHARE YOUR WORK TO ENCOURAGE PREPARED DISCUSSIONS.

- GO TO DLC HOME PAGE.
- CLICK LOG IN IN UPPER RIGHT CORNER.
  - IF YOU ARE A RETURNING DLC USER LOG IN AND PROCEED.
  - IF YOU ARE A NEW USER, CLICK THAT OPTION, AND ANSWER A FEW QUESTIONS TO LOG IN.
- CLICK + IN LEFTHAND SIDEBAR, AND SELECT ITEM FROM DROPDOWN MENU.
- SELECT CONFERENCE PAPER FROM LIST, AND PROCEED TO ENTER THE INFORMATION AS COMPLETELY AS YOU CAN.
- ATTACH YOUR PAPER, IN PDF FORMAT.
- WHEN FINISHED SELECT +DEPOSIT BUTTON, AND YOU ARE FINISHED!

HTTPS://GO.IU.EDU/8PRI
AWARDS

FOR THE 7TH WOW, THE AWARDS HONOR THE LEGACY OF THE OSTROMS AND THEIR HISTORY OF CRAFTSMANSHIP. THEY WILL BE PRESENTED FRIDAY EVENING AT THE AWARDS BANQUET.

The Building

THE WORKSHOP FOUNDED IN 1973 AND MOVED TO 513 N PARK IN 1983. FOR FORTY YEARS, THIS BUILDING SERVED AS THE HOME OF PIONEERING RESEARCH AND EXTRODAIRY FELLOWSHIP. THIS ICONIC SITE IS THE INSPIRATION FOR THE OSTROM WORKSHOP COMMUNITY BUILDING AWARD.

Totem Pole

THE TOTEM POLE IS A STAPLE IN THE OSTROM WORKSHOP LIVING ROOM, ORIGINALLY ATTAINED BY THE OSTROMS FROM WESTERN CANADA AND BUILT INTO THEIR BLOOMINGTON HOME, IU CRAFTED 3D REPLICATIONS OF THE TOTEM POLE AS THE BEST POSTER AWARDS.

The Chairs

THE OSTROMS PRACTICED WOODWORKING IN A WORKSHOP OWNED BY PAUL GOODMAN. THERE THEY CRAFTED PORCH CHAIRS AS OUTDOOR FURNITURE FOR THEIR BLOOMINGTON HOME. TODAY, THE CHAIRS ARE LOCATED IN FRONT OF PARK 1 AND BECAME A TOUCHSTONE, FREQUENTLY INVOKED BY THE OSTROMS AS EXEMPLARS OF CONTESTATION. THEY FUNCTIONED AS TANGIBLE EVIDENCE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF FINDING COMMON UNDERSTANDING. WE HONOR OUR OSTROM SENIOR RESEARCH FELLOWS WITH 3D PRINTED REPLICAS.
Welcome to the Ostrom Workshop!

It is impossible to summarize, or otherwise do justice, to the last 50 years of the Workshop’s storied history, or the exciting and diverse types of governance research that are now being pursued by our Program Directors, working groups, and throughout the community. Nevertheless, our hope for this publication is both to look back, and ahead, by featuring interviews between current doctoral Ostrom Fellows and the Ostrom Workshop Senior Research Fellows who have done so much to make the Workshop what it is today, along with stories and summaries of our milestones and current portfolio.
Since WOW6 in 2019, it has been a turbulent time for the Workshop community as it has been for so many others around the world from the COVID-19 pandemic to campus protests and, in IU’s case, a challenging change in administrations. But I could not be more proud of how our amazing staff and faculty colleagues have weathered the storm, from moving all our events online to relaunching two of our Programs (Political Economy and Environmental and Natural Resource Governance) and creating two new ones (Commons and Sustainable Food Systems). We have seen a flourishing of working groups now numbering more than a dozen on topics ranging from water governance to cultural commons, a record amount of grant activity supporting impactful and groundbreaking research, and deepened ties with the International Association of the Study of the Commons (IASC).
I have no doubt that the next 50 years of the Ostrom Workshop will be even more exciting than our first semi-centennial. To paraphrase Lin, little by little, bit by bit working together we can do so much good and impactful work on so many levels to help break down silos and build bridges to address some of the toughest challenges facing our world from climate change and polarization to cyber attacks and food insecurity. WOW is both a celebration of this reality, and a call to action, so we hope you enjoy yourselves and thanks for making this community what it is today.

[Signature]
When did you first meet Lin, or Vincent?

Burney: I first read about Lin in the Indianapolis Star in the mid 1990s when she was awarded a large ($6M) grant to study forests (International Forestry Resources and Institutions IFRI). I was the Indiana State Forester, Purdue Forestry & Natural Resources graduate and former Purdue FNR faculty member. I received a cold phone call from Lin with her opening statement – “We have been watching what you are doing”--as a state employee that is a scary start to a conversation. She explained that she and her students have been following my efforts to bring diverse forest interest groups together to discuss difficult issues and was impressed with my efforts. She then invited me to the Workshop for a two-day visit to meet with her, some colleagues and her students to just talk about these and similar efforts elsewhere. This started a relationship that grew over time and initiated a multi-year gathering of Indiana forestry stakeholders with Lin.
Paul Dragos Aligica
University of Bucharest & The Mercatus Center

When did you first meet Lin, or Vincent, and how does your current research agenda relate to the Workshop?

Paul: I first met the Ostroms in 1998 as a PhD student. I am continuing to study Governance, Institutional Analysis, and Polycentricity, further developing its theory and applying it to areas where it has not been applied, building on the governance theory of Elinor and Vincent Ostrom.

Paul and Vincent, WOW4 (2009)
Jimmy: I started coming to Workshop seminars in my second year at IU (1985). Soon after, I got a call from Lin (over a weekend) asking if I would like to join her and Roy Gardner in developing a project on experiments related to governance of common-pool resources. That phone call led to over 25 years of collaboration and friendship!
When did you first meet Lin, or Vincent?

Brenda: I was working at USAID on the Decentralization, Finance, and Management Project and met Lin when she was presenting to a group of about thirty men at a very long table. They were not inclined to give her much attention but at the end of the meeting they were all nodding their heads in agreement. I thought to myself, “I want to work with her!”
Mike McGinnis  
Indiana University

When did you first meet Lin, or Vincent?

**Mike:** The first time I met Lin, she stumped me with a research question during my job interview, but she was nice about it! This was enlightening for me, especially seeing how different the Workshop was from other academic settings. Here, questions and critiques were always constructive, aimed at helping the presenter improve their research rather than undermining them. This respectful contestation was integral to the Workshop’s ethos. It fostered a supportive and engaging environment that differed significantly from the competitive nature of professional conferences. This place has a way of making you feel at home, offering a level of intellectual engagement and community spirit that I hadn’t found.
Insa: I met Lin at the Humboldt University in Berlin in the frame of a joint research programme. At that time, in 2001, I had just started my PhD research on irrigation in post-socialist Bulgaria. I worked on transition questions of socio-ecological-technical systems in post-socialist countries – it easily turned out – it was all about governance. It's still in my mind how passionate Lin was about topics, regardless of who was presenting them. Two years ago, I have been elected as vice president of our university.

Leading a traditional organization with more than 500 years of history, taking into account the specifics of academic self-administration – this job is a research project in itself, not only for Ostrom Workshoppers. What motivates actors to work together and which formal and informal rules do they need in order to do so optimally for the organization's goal achievement? Which decisions should be made at which level and how do I design institutional change? Strictly speaking, the questions are the same ever since I started to work on governance.
Mike McGinnis
Indiana University

What got you interested in governance, and the Ostrom Workshop?

Mike: Around ’85, my curiosity led me to the Workshop, where I found the experimental research on CPR particularly fascinating. This included laboratory experiments with students in scenarios that required collective action to maximize benefits from shared resources like fisheries or agriculture. The results were intriguing, showcasing the complexity of collective action problems and the challenges in fostering cooperation. The Workshop’s interdisciplinary environment, which contrasted with more traditional focus of the political science department, was intellectually stimulating. This was just a much more fun place to be.
Inna: I have worked with other people from the Workshop and I enjoy these collaborations, people with different backgrounds, finding commonalities and finding ways to bring our diverse set of strengths and then produce scholarship together. That is one of the most enjoyable things at the Workshop, the fact that you can do that. At the Workshop it’s show me you can do it and then let’s figure out if we can answer our questions together by approaching it from multiple perspectives. The Workshop attracts open-minded people that often look for an expansion on their methodological and theoretical repertoire as opposed to focusing narrowly on something. I enjoy it—it is just great to be immersed in this broader network. I like that the Workshop helps to break the silos.
HARINI NAGENDRA
AZIM PREMJI UNIVERSITY

MIKE MCGINNIS
INDIANA UNIVERSITY

SCOTT SHACKELFORD
PRESENTING BRENDA
BUSHOUSE WITH HER
SENIOR RESEARCH
FELLOW CERTIFICATE,
2024
What’s one of your favorite funny stories, anecdotes, or memorable events that happened at the Workshop?

Jimmy: I can think of two “most memorable events:” having the honor of being Lin’s escort at the Nobel Prize Ceremonies and the “Hootenanny” at one of the early WOWs. Anyone who got to enjoy that Hootenanny will never forget Lin playing the tambourine.
Charlie Schweik
University of Massachusetts-Amherst

Charlie: Vincent and Lin were always talking about the importance of achieving a “common understanding” and the importance of using language carefully. I had the fortunate experience of working with Lin on grant-getting as a graduate student and was involved in the formation of a research group called the “Center for Institutions, Population and Environmental Change” (CIPEC) that brought a number of postdoctoral scholars to IU when it was funded. CIPEC was a collaboration led by Lin and Emilio Moran of IU Anthropology and other co-PIs from across the IU campus. In the first months of CIPEC we held meetings to build a common understanding across a variety of disciplines. I’ll never forget the time where we spent, literally, two days just gaining a common understanding of what the term “scale” meant in the contexts of different disciplines. It really demonstrated to me that making sure people understand terms was critical so not to talk past each other, and really solidified why Vincent and Lin always pushed the “common understanding” mantra.
BURNey Fischer and edella Schlager, wow6?

charlie schweik
university of massachusetts-
amherst

FILIPPO SABETTI, MCGILL UNIVERSITY
What's one of your favorite funny stories, anecdotes, or memorable events that happened at the Workshop?

Bill: Lin and two visitors and I were walking from 513 N. Park toward Yogi's (no longer there) to have lunch. In response to something one of the visitors said, Lin mentioned that she had recently turned 70. The visitor asked whether, at age 70, Lin was considering retirement. "Retire??" Lin replied. "I feel like I'm just hitting my stride!"

And so she was... a few years later, it was off to Stockholm.
Dan: I’m eternally grateful to Lin and to the Workshop because I found a home. I believe that it’s important to keep this Ostrom thing alive—the hardest thing to recover is the sense of community. And the sense of intellectual ferment where people are just gabbing in the hallways, in the living room, in the kitchen and foyer—and we saw that this spring. So, that gives me a real warm feeling.
Eduardo Brondizio
Indiana University

What are your thoughts on the Workshop today and for the future?

EDU AT WOWS (2014)

Edu: It is great to see the Workshop at such a good place as we celebrate its 50th anniversary. The Research Programs represent diverse, proactive, dynamic, collegial communities of scholars, which are also intergenerational and continuously evolving. The WOW7 conference (in its 30th anniversary) is an illustration of this dynamism. We had a record number of panels and papers submitted from around the world, representing topics across the research programs and celebrating this amazing history and extraordinary global community.
Here’s to another 50 years of forging new paths together...
OSTROM WORKSHOP
1973–2023