HKU-USC-IPPA Conference on Public Policy

Panel

T01P04 - The Ostrom Workshop in Political Theory and Policy Analysis and its Contributions to Public Policy

Chair

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Description

Vincent and Elinor Ostrom founded the Workshop in Political Theory and Policy Analysis in 1973. The Workshop has since become one of the most dynamic, well-recognized and productive social science research centers worldwide. Its reputation is the result of a unique and successful combination of interdisciplinary theoretical approaches and hard-nosed empiricism. It draws inspiration from classical modes of analysis illustrated by Hobbes, Locke, Montesquieu, Hume, Adam Smith, Hamilton, Madison and Tocqueville, along with contemporary institutional scholars such as Dewey, Popper, Polanyi, Hayek, Olson, Buchanan and Tullock, North, Coase, among others. The Ostrom Workshop has evolved to become what is now known as the Bloomington School of Public Choice.

Among the notable contributions of the Ostrom Workshop to the policy literature includes the development of theoretical, empirical and methodological literature, many of which have laid the foundation for the analyses of contemporary issues. This body of work includes 1) polycentricity, decentralization, local public economies, metropolitan governance, co-production, public entrepreneurship and collaborative governance; 2) theory of the commons; 3) the well known Institutional Analysis and Development Framework; 4) theory of resilience and robustness; 5) second generation behavioral theories of collective action and the importance of norms, trust and reciprocity; 6) democratic theory, nature of social order, politics as the art and science of association and a non-state centric approach to politics, among many others. Many of these ideas have

In addition to these theoretical contributions, the Ostrom Workshop also pioneered and extended the application of a wide array of methodological approaches to policy and institutional analysis. These include game theory, analytic narratives, agent based modeling, laboratory and field experiments, ethnography, small N-studies, meta-analyses, among others.

In this panel, we seek papers that provide a critical appreciation, extension and further development of the theoretical, empirical and methodological contributions of the Ostroms to the public policy literature.