Informal Institutions and Intractable Global Problems Workshop.
Purdue University, April 16-17, 2012.
Major Sponsors

- Purdue Global Policy Research Institute
- Purdue Climate Change Research Center
- National Science Foundation

- Plus support from College of Liberal Arts, Purdue Global Sustainability Initiative
Workshop Overview

• **Informal Institutions**: The unwritten “rules” of social behavior & organization
  – Recognized as increasingly important in politics and policy, as well as explaining social and human decision making

• **Overarching question**: How can informal institutions suggest new perspectives on seemingly intractable global problems?
Workshop Overview

• Bring together leading international scholars working on informal institutions in area of three intractable global problems:

  – Climate Change
  – Women’s Human Rights
  – Food Security
The Workshop Organizing Team

- S. Laurel Weldon, Professor, Pol Sci
- Leigh Raymond, Assoc. Professor, Pol Sci
- Ximena Arriaga, Assoc. Professor, Psych
- Ann Marie Clark, Assoc. Professor, Pol Sci
- Dan Kelly, Asst. Professor, Philosophy
Workshop Process

• Meet two days in plenary, equal time for presentations and discussion.
• Include Purdue and community experts as well as international invitees.
• Include graduate students and practitioners.
• Circulate draft papers in advance.
• Webcast proceedings and make available on-line in future.
Workshop Objectives and Deliverables

• Seeking **new insights across disciplines** and problem areas.

• **Special symposium** in academic journal *Political Research Quarterly*

• **Targeted policy briefs** with new ideas from workshop for each policy area.
Preparation: Informal Institutions Readings Class

- Co-taught Fall 2011 by workshop team
- Participation of other faculty
- Interdisciplinary group of graduate students enrolled (~12)
- Reading and discussing material published by workshop invitees
The Workshop (this week)!
Panel 1: Theoretical Perspectives

- Chair: Dan Kelly, Philosophy
- Joe Henrich, Canada Research Chair in Culture, Cognition and Coevolution, Psychology and Economics, UBC
- Stephen Stich, Philosophy, Rutgers
- Georgina Waylen, Political Science, Manchester UK
Panel 2: Climate Change

- Chair: Otto Doering, Ag Econ, Purdue
- Janet Swim, Psych, Penn State
- Kathryn Hochstetler, Pol Sci, Waterloo
- Breena Holland, Pol Sci, Lehigh Univ.
- Leigh Raymond, Pol Sci, Purdue
Keynote Speaker: Elinor Ostrom

Confronting Challenging Collective Action Problems

• Nobel Prize Winner in Economics, 2009
• Expert in informal institutions
• Fowler Hall filled to capacity (500 seats)
Panel 3: Food Security

- Chair: Gary Burniske, Managing Director, Center for Global Food Security
- Ellen Messer, Anthropology, Brandeis
- Marc Cohen, Oxfam America
- Lauren McClean, Political Science, Indiana Univ.
Panel 4: Women’s Human Rights

- Chair Ann Marie Clark, Pol Sci, Purdue
- Louise Chappell, Australian Res. Council Future Fellow
- Elisabeth Friedman, Pol Sci, Univ. of San Francisco
- Olga Avdeyeva, Pol Sci, Loyola Univ.
- S. Laurel Weldon, Pol Sci, Purdue
Graduate Students / Local Practitioners

• Special invitations to emerging scholars in these areas, both at Purdue and other universities in area

• Special invitations to local practitioners:
  – Jasmine Dowd, YWCA Domestic Violence Program
  – Jesse Kharbanda, Hoosier Env. Council
  – and others…
First Impressions

- Importance of communicating across disciplines about these ideas
- Importance of institutional diversity – no “one size fits all solutions”
- Importance of relationships between “formal” and “informal” rules – laws and norms, norms and law.
First Impressions

• Importance of *local input* – talking to those working on the ground for policy and social change. *Context matters*

• Power of informal institutions to both *advance and impede progress* on these difficult issues.

• Differences of scale, level of analysis, types of norms/informal institutions
Next Steps, Summer 2012

- Organizing committee to discuss and reflect on results.
- Begin working on final papers for special journal issue.
- Write, produce, and disseminate policy briefs.