



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)!



Are Moral Disputes Intractable?

Stephen Stich

Dept. of Philosophy &
Center for Cognitive Science
Rutgers University



WORKSHOP ON INFORMAL INSTITUTIONS AND
INTRACTABLE GLOBAL PROBLEMS

1

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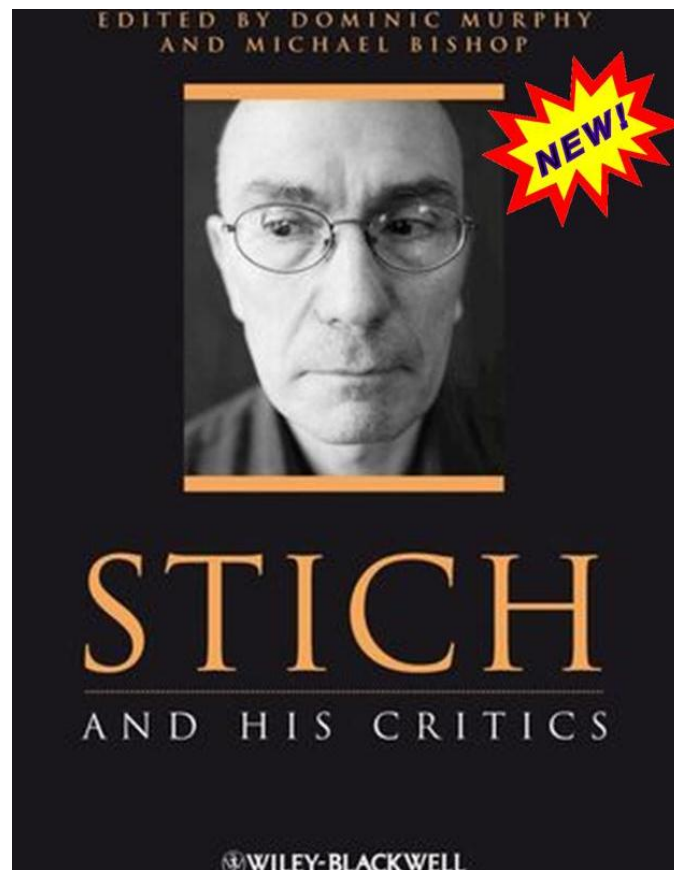


WORKSHOP ON INFORMAL INSTITUTIONS AND
INTRACTABLE GLOBAL PROBLEMS



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

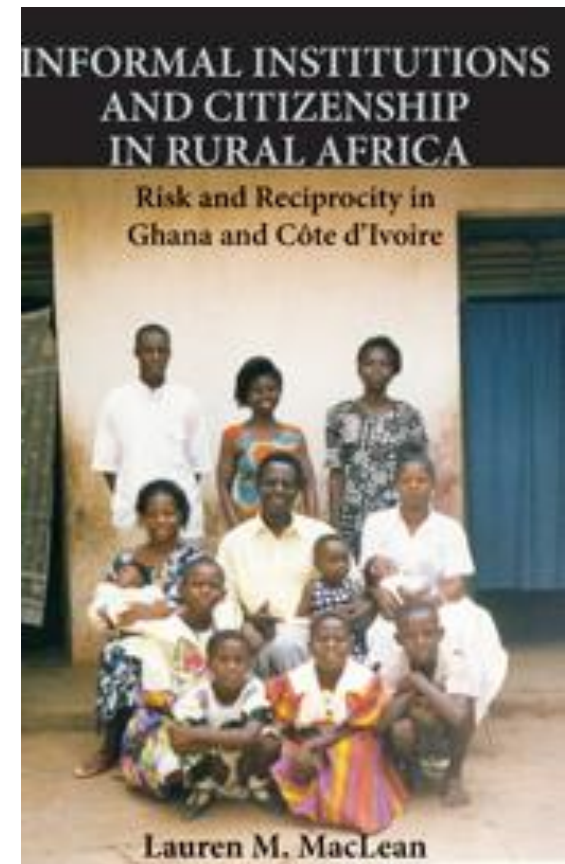
Confronting Challenging Collective Action Problems

- 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.