

Call for papers for an IASC 2011 (International Association for the Study of the Commons, Hyderabad, India) panel:

Inside the natural resource bureaucracy: How does the internal organization of bureaucracies affect natural resource management?

The purpose of this panel is to examine how the internal workings of natural resource bureaucracies affect how they interact with other actors, including politicians, other public agencies, NGOs, scientists, local communities, and international organizations in the management of common-pool resources. Common pool resource theory has made great strides in understanding the conditions under which local governance of natural resources can be successful, yet important aspects of natural resource governance throughout the world lie in the hands of public agencies. These public agencies are frequently observed to be the source of policy failures in commons governance. In spite of increased interest in studies that examine cross-scale linkages, the internal organization of these bureaucracies has rarely been the explicit focus of commons research. The literature on the organization of public agencies does not focus on the peculiar difficulties involved in management of CPRs, but literatures on policy implementation, street-level bureaucracy, hierarchical control, organizational change, and representation and accountability in bureaucratic contexts are likely to be particularly useful. Given that this question has not been systematically addressed in the literature, we expect to focus on empirical descriptive studies of the internal organization of bureaucracies, but are also interested in theoretical developments that seek to explain how bureaucratic organization contributes to observed outcomes. Research looking at bureaucratic responses to decentralization programs or REDD forestry programs is particularly welcome.

Scholars wishing to submit a paper to this panel should send their submission to Forrest Fleischman (fleischf@indiana.edu) by March 19, 2010. Your submission should include a title for the paper; names, organizational affiliations, and contact information for all contributing authors; 5 keywords; and a 100-300 word abstract. I will inform you of your acceptance into this panel by March 22, 2010 (papers not accepted for this panel may still be eligible to be submitted to the general conference – submission deadline is March 31st 2010). Final papers should be 6,000-10,000 words, and will be due in late September 2010.

Please also note that IASC limits single-authored papers to one per person, and any author may be listed as a co-author on a maximum of two co-authored papers. Further information on the IASC conference, including the full call for papers, is at: <http://iasc2011.fes.org.in/>