

Call for papers

We are happy to invite you to submit an abstract for a panel titled '**Rural out-migration and resource dependent communities in a globalized world**' at the 13th Biennial Conference of the International Association for the Study of the Commons, Hyderabad, India, January 10th - 14th, 2011. Please find a draft proposal below for details on the focus and objectives of the panel. If you are interested in contributing a paper please send your abstract by **26th March 2010** to James Patrick Robson at umrobsoj@cc.umanitoba.ca or Prateep Kumar Nayak at nayakprateep@gmail.com. You may refer to the IASC conference website at <http://iasc2011.fes.org.in/call-for-abstracts.php> for guidelines on abstract and paper preparation.

Panel Title:

Rural out-migration and resource dependent communities in a globalized world

Organizers:

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Conventional commons thinking typically deals with resources, bounded territories and communities that are 'local' in nature. Commons regimes, however, are complex social-ecological systems - characterised by nonlinearity, uncertainty, emergence and multiple levels. Despite claims that commons theory is sufficiently robust to enable prediction at the local level, its ability to predict how a regime may respond to long-term stressors is less clear. This panel will look at the susceptibility and response of commons regimes to demographic and cultural changes through rural out-migration, a process that is stretching identities, institutions and boundaries across space and time. Focusing on distinct cultural and environmental contexts – from the highland forests of Oaxaca, southern Mexico to the brackish coastal lagoons of Orissa, eastern India – panel presentations will cover issues of specific relevance to commons scholarship. These include: (i) a rethinking of the concept of 'community' as (socio-economic-cultural) capital, identity, and governance become de-territorialized; (ii) changes to existing commons institutions, as well as the emergence of new institutional arrangements that stretch across geographical scales; and, (iii) the changing practices and mobility of resource users.

In touching upon these and other issues, the panel will discuss whether out-migration can facilitate a transformation of customary ways of life - with particular attention given to the impacts that could disconnect migrants (and their families) from both resource practices and the institutions of the home (sending) community. Such trends can undermine local adaptations to demographic and cultural change, and, in the face of external interests, questions the long-term viability of affected governance regimes. The lessons from this set of cross-cultural migration studies offer an opportunity to rethink the role of traditional resource commons in a world increasingly defined by globalisation-related processes and pressures.