

Pre-Conference Workshops for the Kitafuji Conference

Below are our pre-conference workshops. These will all be held in the Citizens' Hall of Fujiyoshida City on Monday, June 3, which most conveniently happens to be where opening ceremonies for the conference will begin at 3:00pm. Many participants at the conference like to enroll in these to learn about a new field, research or teaching method, or policy issue; to review a topic from the perspective of the instructor who is a leader in the field, or to immerse themselves in the history of the commons in the conference's host country. Since participants arriving in time for opening events on Monday June 3 will often want to arrive on June 2 to deal with jet lag, the pre-conference workshops are also an intellectually satisfying method of adjusting to the time difference (napping during daytime is a guaranteed way of NEVER adjusting to the difference!) These workshops are often quite lively, designed with various activities and breaks. Note that WS3 on designing field experiments, taught by Juan Camilo Cardenas and Jim Murphy, is a very hands-on workshop that begins on Sunday, June 2. Lunches are included where needed, and attached to morning workshops for those who would like to pick a morning workshop, eat, and then attend an afternoon workshop on a different topic. For those who attend only an afternoon workshop, lunches will be available for purchase.

WS1. The Commons in Japan: origins, evolution, legal struggles, and transformations in the present day

Gaku Mitsumata (Hyogo University) and others

Full day, 8:30-14:30 on Monday, June 3, ¥6000 including lunch, capacity limit 90 persons

This full-day workshop on the history of the Commons in Japan will introduce participants to the origins, evolution, and varieties of commons in Japan, the political struggles between a national government that wanted to undermine commons and citizens' efforts to maintain such rights (which were supposedly legally guaranteed), and status today of common access rights in various kinds of resources. Japan is unusual for having entered the industrial age with many commons legally intact. Moving into the present we see a transformation in uses, as subsistence commons became commercial extractive commons, and now as they are more fully recognized as providing wide-scale environmental services.

1) Overview of the commons in Japan (Gaku Mitsumata, Hyogo University)

We will begin with a look at the historical transition of the commons in Japan, and how disputes created documentation that became the foundation for proving customary use, a prerequisite in the late 19th century for verifying claims to commons. We will review national policies to undermine the commons since the 19th century, the legal struggles these caused, and the legal and policy innovations devised in response to those battles. We will consider what recent research on the commons in Japan tells us about the significance (function, purpose, consequences, value) of iriai (shared use) commons. Following our overview, we will look at the detailed varieties of commons and review the economic and legal status of commons in Japan today, as well as and current issues and problems.

2) Title: Semi-natural grassland as one the typical Japanese Iriai (Daisaku Shimada, Fukuoka Women's University)

In this segment we will review the ecological characteristics of semi-natural grassland and its relation with human activities. Participants will explore the historical changes in utilization of grasslands with the introduction of competing sources of agricultural inputs and changes in markets for the outputs from the commons. We will conclude by looking at the problem of "under-use" on abandoned commons. Are commons abandoned because people do not need them? Because they cannot think of anything else to do with them? Because using them has become legally complex or economically inefficient? Because using them well requires social capital that communities have lost? Why are some commons not abandoned, and why are some used well?

3) Warichi: Shared Ownership and Rotational use of Cultivated Land in Japan

(Philip Brown, Ohio State University)

It is not unusual to find that people decide to manage certain kinds of natural resources as a community, but it is more unusual for them to choose to manage cultivated fields as shared holdings rather than as parcels separately owned by different individuals. In parts of Japan from Okinawa to the north, about 1/3 of Japanese communities chose to manage cultivated fields by sharing ownership and rotating use of them among households after prescribed periods of time, alongside the nearly universal practice of sharing ownership and use of forests, meadows, and water resources. This segment of the workshop will examine the evidence to try to understand what intended and unanticipated functions cultivating land in common might have served, and why so many Japanese communities with this practice insisted on retaining it, even when regional or national governments tried to convert this land to parceled individual ownership. Did this have something to do with resilience in the face of disaster? Was it a welfare system for sharing risk?

4) Title: Rises and falls in watershed governance in Japan

(Tomohiko Ohno, Hannan University)

This segment is designed to review the historical changes of governance for water and rivers in Japan. Participants will explore the current legal framework for watershed governance and its transition from 19th century. We will take a close look at the background and effect of the 1997 River Law, which has been recently amended to promote the conservation of river environments.

5) Unique communal management of Coastal Fisheries

(Dr. Alyne Delaney, Aalborg University)

This segment of the workshop will involve a brief introduction into the historical system of cooperation and fishing cooperatives for managing coastal resources, and will then focus on the current system and contemporary issues. Whereas owners of common access rights on land possess “iriai-ken,” members of fishing cooperatives share ownership of “gyogyō-ken” or fishing rights. Current questions include the development of new uses, the extension of fishing commons to include afforestation on the coastline to reduce pollution and maintain coastal fisheries, and even the arrival or inclusion of new commoners as urban Japanese become keenly aware of how important open space and robust biodiverse ecosystems are for the environmental health of the nation as a whole.

WS2. Introduction to the Commons, Collective Action, and Property Rights—I and II

Ruth Meinzen-Dick (CGIAR Program on Collective Action and Property Rights (CAPRI),) and Leticia Merino (National Autonomous University of Mexico)

Full day, 8:30-14:30 on Monday, June 3, ¥6000 including lunch, capacity limit 50 persons

This preconference workshop will help participants with no specialized background on commons to become familiar with the basic commons and core theoretical principles, as well as able to apply this to their own work. It is recommended that those who have little background on the commons participate in both parts of the workshop, but participants can opt to attend just the morning or just the afternoon. Because we will play a Commons Game (e.g., participate in a game theoretic experiment), the number of participants needs to be capped at 50. The workshop will answer questions regarding what commons actually are, their importance, and examples of traditional and contemporary commons. It will draw upon the work of Nobel Laureate Elinor Ostrom, the CGIAR program on Collective Action and Property Rights (CAPRI) and others to address topics such as:

1. Common Pool Resources and Common Property Regimes
2. The role of collective action and property rights in managing the commons
3. Different forms of property rights and legal pluralism
4. Institutional design, including Ostrom's Design Principles for governing the commons
5. Enclosure of Commons and moves to restore the commons
6. Indicators for 'secure access' to commons

Target Workshop Participants: the following groups would be particularly interested in attending this pre-conference workshop:

1. Practitioners who wish to gain an overview of the different theoretical strains regarding Commons.
2. Government officials, especially those working on Commons' issues and other issues pertaining to natural resource management in global South.
3. Students who would like to gain an understanding of the theoretical and practical aspects regarding CPRs; in the especial context of global poor.
4. Activists and grassroots level workers who wish to understand the implications of the legal frameworks, on securing access to CPRs.

Workshop Goals: The goals of the Workshop are:

1. Imparting a basic understanding of the theory of Commons to participants.
2. Understanding the potential of Community Based Property Rights in securing the lives and livelihoods of the global poor, and identifying the constraints of such approaches
3. Strengthening ability of participants to apply the theory of the commons to their own work.

Workshop Methods: the workshop will include—

1. Presentations of theoretical materials and case studies
2. Group discussions applying lessons to participants' own work
3. The Commons Game
4. Video presentation of "Crafting Institutions for Self-Governing Irrigation Systems," Elinor Ostrom video illustrating eight fundamental rules of CPR governance and management.

Size: maximum 50 participants

Materials: *Resources, Rights, and Cooperation: A Sourcebook on Property Rights and Collective Action*

Workshop Leaders: Leticia Merino, Ruth Meinzen-Dick

Supporting Organizations: CGIAR Program on Collective Action and Property Rights (CAPRI), UNAM

Workshop Outline

Introduction to the Commons—I (morning half)

Welcome and introductions

Overview of commons theory: Leticia Merino, UNAM

Collective action and property rights: Ruth Meinzen-Dick, CAPRI

Collective Action Game

Introduction to the Commons—II (afternoon half)

Video presentation of “Crafting Institutions for Self-Governing Irrigation Systems,” (Elinor Ostrom video illustrating eight fundamental rules of CPR governance and management)

Presentation of Case Studies: Leticia Merino

Group discussions applying lessons to participants’ own work

WS3. Designing Field Experiments for the study of Socio-Ecological Systems

Juan Camilo Cardenas (University of the Andes) and Jim Murphy (University of Alaska)

One and a half days (Sunday, June 2, 12:00-17:00 and Monday, June 3, 8:30-14:30, ¥10,000 including two lunches. Maximum capacity 40 persons. Participants are advised to start on Sunday but it will be possible for late-arrivers to join the workshop on Monday morning.

We will offer a workshop of one-and-a-half days in length, to provide a glimpse of how to design field experiments for studying the behavior and interactions between humans and socio-ecological systems. The approach of the workshop would be the combination of a) participation in classroom games to experience being in the shoes of the participants in an experiment, b) short presentations on first-hand experience and methodological issues about designing experiments and c) a hands-on exercise where the workshop participants will work on designing their own experiment for a particular question that will be proposed among the workshop participants and the workshop faculty. At the end we will vote for the best experimental designs. We will provide simple examples, basic readings, checklists and hand-outs that would help the participants jump in the water and design a simple experiment for a particular question of their own. The purpose of the workshop is to get the participants to see the basics of designing an experiment that can be conducted in the field for different purposes beyond the scientific goal of producing data about human behavior, including experiments for impact evaluation, for dialogues between government organizations, NGOs and communities of ecosystem users, among others.

Topics to be covered:

- Finding the right (and concrete) question for an experiment
- The tension between simplification and external validity in experiments
- Experimental design: the role of randomization in the laboratory, control and treatment variables.
- Sampling in the field: recruitment of participants, representativeness.
- Combining experiments with other participatory tools: role games, workshops
- Experiments for research, for social change, policy debate, impact evaluation, community capacity building.
- Ethical issues: impacts of economic experiments; potential conflicts

WS4. Teaching about the Commons: Content, Methods, and Learning Outcomes

Laura S. Meitzner Yoder (Goshen College, USA)

Half-day (12:00 noon to 14:30pm), ¥2500, lunch available but not included, capacity limit 30

Imagine that you will offer a new course about common resources at the university level, or with a community group program to reach policymakers. What would that course look like? What concepts and topics are important to convey? How will you use classroom and field exercises, site visits and interviews? What readings are accessible for the undergraduate level? Few educators currently offer courses or programs specifically focused on learning about the commons. Participants in this workshop will learn from a range of existing course examples used by experienced instructors. We will work together to answer the above questions and to define content, methods, and learning outcomes that would produce a commons course in our own contexts.

WS5. Using film as a tool for teaching and as an archive for research

Nick De Ocampo (documentary film director, Center for New Cinema), Papa Faye (Institute of Social Anthropology, University of Bern), with contributions from Jesse Ribot (Department of Geography, University of Illinois, USA)

Half-day (8:30am to 11:30am) ¥3500 including lunch, capacity limit 40 persons

This workshop deals with the use of video resources in teaching environmental awareness for classroom purposes as well as for general public viewing. Using clips from a video documentary that was shot in five ecological sites in Asia, *Cross Currents: Journey to Asian Environments* (available for viewing in its entirety in the video room at the conference – see program for schedule with director's introduction), participants will discover two pervasive responses to ecological challenges in the region: spiritual responses and community activism.

To help understand how local communities develop their responses in order to help them sustain their habitat and social lives, a video teaching module provides a more substantial understanding of the issues involved. Through video clips we can revisit scenes that are salient in understanding ecological issues, pdf files of textual documents that can be assigned to students to read, interviews from environmental resource persons who can amplify the topics, as well as other contents and devices that can enrich student learning about the environment.

The main documentary was produced by the Asian Public Intellectuals (API), a group of scholars, artists, NGO workers and activists who undertook an environmental research across five ecological sites, namely: Batanes, a seasonal fishing community in the Philippines; Harihata and Mukugawa, forest and farming villages in Biwako, Japan; Kali Code, a river community in Yogyakarta, Indonesia (there will be a conference paper on Kali Code in the program!); Khiriwong, a mountain-orchard community in southern Thailand; and Tasik Chini, an endangered lakeshore village in Malaysia. Dealt in this documentary are the various ecological commons found in these sites: from water resources (ocean, lake, river) to land resources (mountains, farmlands, forests), from indigenous beliefs (shamanism, ethno-medicine) to social practices (cooperative forest management, community activism).

Making documentary film produces far more footage than ends up in the final edited product. Our at the Center for New Cinema consists of hundreds of hours of collected footage about vanishing local wisdom of indigenous communities, expert comments by scholars, cycles of nature's seasons, and traditional rituals and social practices that would be of interest to social sciences and the general public. How can we preserve and maximize the use of this archival footage for community empowerment and pedagogical purposes? The archive itself is a digital commons and a huge intellectual resource, preserving a living memory of the natural and social commons. Through this video workshop we hope to show how digital technology can advance practical goals and teaching, and also provide a collection of individual case studies to advance theory-building in social science and our understanding of the ecological issues that affect our lives.

WS6. Resilience Theory for the Study of Social-Ecological Change

Fikret Berkes, Institute for Natural Resources, University of Manitoba, Canada

Half day (9:30am-11:30am – two hours, not three), ¥3000 including lunch, capacity 35 persons.

Resilience theory deals with system dynamics and envisions ecosystems as constantly changing, sometimes abruptly and unpredictably. It focuses on renewal cycles and disturbance events such as fire, that are essential to renew the system before another cycle of growth and development can proceed. In its broader context, resilience is about ecosystems and people together as integrated social-ecological systems in which social systems and ecosystems are recognized as coupled, interdependent and co-evolving. Studies that have critically examined social-ecological systems have found them to be something more than the sum of their constituent social systems and ecological systems. Many resilience scholars from about 2000 onwards adopted the concept and the term social-ecological system. Yet much work needs to be done on the social side of social-ecological systems. This workshop will review the evolution of resilience theory and explore what resilience as a concept and body of theory offers to commons researchers, especially those interested in humans in social-ecological systems. How can resilience theory be used for the study of change? How can social science concepts such as adaptive capacity and agency be integrated into resilience thinking?

WS7: Campaigning for commons and common rights

Kate Ashbrook from the Open Spaces Society (Great Britain) and the CCRI (Countryside and Community Research Institute, University of Gloucestershire), and John Powell (University of Gloucestershire)

Half Day (12:00-14:30pm), ¥2500, lunch available but not included, capacity 30 persons.

Commons everywhere are under threat. So too are people's rights to use the commons' resources for their survival, their way of life and their enjoyment. This workshop will examine methods of activism and campaigning used in various contexts, in order to equip commoners and others with the knowledge and skills to run their own campaigns against those (sometimes private concessionaires or powerful locals, sometimes "invaders" from distant areas, sometimes government officials) who exploit and destroy the commons for their own personal or commercial gain. This workshop will be based on experience of actual activists and campaigners in their encounters with the challenges of mobilizing the concerned and combating difficulties, including political and bureaucratic resistance.

WS8: The Digital Library of the Commons

Emily Castle, Information Officer of IASC and Librarian of the Digital Library of the Commons, Ostrom Workshop in Political Theory and Policy Analysis, Indiana University

Short session (13:00-14:30pm), free, capacity 100 persons.

What's the quickest and easiest way to access full text articles on the commons? Do you want to be a part of shaping the future for commons literature? Come and learn about the Digital Library of the Commons, which started in 2001 to be a gateway to the corpus of literature on the commons. The site contains an archive of full-text articles, papers, dissertations, and books; an author-submission portal; the Comprehensive Bibliography of the Commons; and links to relevant reference sources on the study of the commons. In this workshop we will give a short history of the DLC and discuss its dramatic growth and international usage. There will also be time for participants to engage in a lively discussion of innovative ideas for the DLC to consider as we head into the future.