Behavioral Experiments of Social-Ecological Systems

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Abstract

Type of Session: Traditional
Chair: Marco Janssen

This session brings together scholars who perform behavioral experiments in the laboratory and field to study the conditions for successful governance of common resources. In contrast to traditional studies in experimental economics, presenters in this section include explicitly ecological dynamics. Although there is substantial evidence on the ability of groups to overcome commons dilemmas when participants can communicate and use enforcement, this does not explain the wide diversity observed in the field. The new generation of experiments focuses more closely the topology of interactions and access to the common resources affecting the ability of groups to self-organize. When using experiments in the field the focus is to use those experiments to measure what attributes of communities explain abilities to self-organize which may vary from leadership, market integration and experienced uncertainty. Those field experiments as discussed in this session contain studies on water management in Pakistan and India.

This new generation of behavioral experiments will be more suitable to address questions of resilience of social-ecological systems as traditional experimental economics. Initial insights of the new generation of studies emphasize the importance of inequality, mental models and social justice for the ability of groups to cope with social and ecological disturbances.

Part 1:
Thomas Falk and Aneeque Javaid- Effective institutions produce inefficient outcomes - Experimental evidence from Pakistan

Therese Lindahl – Regime shifts in common pool resource systems: Evidence from laboratory experiments

Marco Janssen – Playing games to save water

Part 2:
Marty Anderies: Social Network Structure and Collective Action in Uncertain Commons Dilemmas

Diego Galafassi, Jacopo Baggio, Orjan Bodin, Marco Janssen and Michael Schoon - Social-ecological connectivity in the lab: Effects of social network configuration on management of

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interdependent ecological resources
Marco Janssen Tipping Collective Action in Social Networks

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