

CALL FOR PAPERS

Indiana University and Cornell University

Informality and Development A Conference in Honor of Elinor Ostrom

October 22-23, 2016, Bloomington, Indiana

Organized by

Michael Alexeev and Ravi Kanbur

The study of informality is one of the many areas in which the work of Elinor Ostrom has had a major influence. In her writings, she admonished analysts and policy makers for their “mindsets” with a particular picture of informality which bore no relation to reality but which nevertheless influenced policy. But these mindsets are themselves borne of the particularities of history and of culture in which policy makers view the informal as “the other”, while this other also develops distinctive social and cultural characteristics which go beyond the purely economic characterizations.

A deep study of informality thus often requires us to not only take up economic or institutional analysis, but to go beyond these to consider broader perspectives from history, society and culture. Further, these different perspectives need to be brought together so that the study of informality can be enriched by insights from different disciplines: economics, political science and sociology from the social sciences, but also history and cultural studies from the humanities.

The object of this conference is to honor the memory and the legacy of Elinor Ostrom by exploring Informality from both economics and interdisciplinary perspectives. The organizers invite submissions of completed papers or substantive abstracts (7-10 pages). The topics can cover the broad range of analytical and policy issues which fall under the rubric of informality. The disciplines covered can range from economics to the broader social sciences to the humanities.

The submissions should be sent to Ravi Kanbur (sk145@cornell.edu) by May 1, 2016. Decisions will be communicated by June 15, 2016. The conference will cover the costs of one presenter for an accepted paper. It is the intention of the organizers to explore the possibility of a conference symposium volume with papers selected from those presented at the conference.