

On the Commons



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- [The Nobel in Economic Science Awarded to Commons Researcher Elinor Ostrom](#)

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Elinor Ostrom's 8 Principles for Managing A Commons

OTC co-sponsors a Commons Festival featuring the Nobel Prize winner Oct. 7-8 in Minneapolis

BY [JAY WALLJASPER](#) [Print](#)

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Elinor Ostrom shared the Nobel Prize in Economics in 2009 for her lifetime of scholarly work investigating how communities succeed or fail at managing common pool (finite) resources such as grazing land, forests and irrigation waters. On the Commons is co-sponsor of a Commons Festival at Augsburg College in Minneapolis October 7-8 where she will speak. (See accompanying sidebar for details.)

Ostrom, a political scientist at Indiana University, received the Nobel Prize for her research proving the importance of the commons around the world. Her work investigating how communities co-operate to share resources drives to the heart of debates today about resource use, the public sphere and the future of the planet. She is the first woman to be awarded the Nobel in Economics.

Ostrom's achievement effectively answers popular theories about the "Tragedy of the Commons", which has been interpreted to mean that private property is the only means of protecting finite resources from ruin or depletion. She has documented in many places around the world how communities devise ways to govern the commons to assure its survival for their needs and future generations.

A classic example of this was her field research in a Swiss village where farmers tend private plots for crops but share a communal meadow to graze their cows. While this would appear a perfect model to prove the tragedy-of-the-commons theory, Ostrom discovered that in reality there were no problems with overgrazing. That is because of a common agreement among villagers that one is allowed to graze more cows on the meadow than they can care for over the winter—a rule that dates back to 1517. Ostrom has documented similar effective examples of "governing the commons" in her research in Kenya, Guatemala, Nepal, Turkey, and Los Angeles.

Based on her extensive work, Ostrom offers 8 principles for how commons can be governed sustainably and equitably in a community.

8 Principles for Managing a Commons

1. Define clear group boundaries.
2. Match rules governing use of common goods to local needs and conditions.
3. Ensure that those affected by the rules can participate in modifying the rules.
4. Make sure the rule-making rights of community members are respected by outside authorities.



Elinor Ostrom speaks Oct. 7 at the Festival of the Commons at Augsburg College in Minneapolis.

You're Invited! First-Ever Festival of the Commons— October 7 & 8, Augsburg College, Minneapolis

Hosted by On the Commons, Augsburg College's Sabo Center for Citizenship and Learning & the Center for Democracy and Citizenship

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FESTIVAL SCHEDULE:

Friday, Oct. 7

3:00 p.m. – The Festival kicks-off with music by the rollicking Brass Messengers on the plaza in front of Augsburg College's Foss Center (22nd and Riverside Avenue South in the West Bank neighborhood of Minneapolis).

3:30 p.m. – Ostrom speaks in Foss Center about her work rediscovering the commons followed by a discussion between Ostrom, the public and a panel of local "commoners".

5:30 p.m. – The event spills into nearby Murphy Square Park for music, food, booths by local commons groups and socializing.

5. Develop a system, carried out by community members, for monitoring members' behavior.
6. Use graduated sanctions for rule violators.
7. Provide accessible, low-cost means for dispute resolution.
8. Build responsibility for governing the common resource in nested tiers from the lowest level up to the entire interconnected system.

Saturday, Oct. 8

10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. – A commons walking tour of the Seward and Cedar-Riverside neighborhoods led by Sabo Professor of Citizenship and Learning Garry Hesser

1 p.m. – 3 p.m. – A bike tour of Minneapolis commons led by Jay Walljasper, Senior Fellow at On the Commons, and Augsburg urban sociology professor Lars Christiansen.

POSTED OCTOBER 2, 2011

Both tours will begin and end in Murphy Square Park (801 22nd Ave. S Minneapolis)

All festival events are free and open to the public. Please join us!

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[Elinor Ostrom has been](#)

Submitted by [jacksen](#) on Wed, 2011-11-09 08:54.

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Submitted by [PoliaNerd](#) on Sun, 2011-11-20 23:39.

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Submitted by [SuneoBary](#) on Tue, 2011-11-22 04:25.

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Submitted by [jacksen](#) on Sat, 2011-11-12 07:42.

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[A year for an update? Samsung](#)

Submitted by [hema](#) on Sun, 2011-11-13 23:34.

A year for an update? Samsung is worse than hp, looks like this is my first and Last samsung. I know u should buy a phone for what it does out of the box but really a yr.

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Submitted by [EmilyM](#) on Wed, 2011-11-16 11:10.

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[still never been to Italy,](#)

Submitted by [jame22](#) on Fri, 2011-11-18 02:11.

still never been to Italy, but it totally just seems like the perfect little life. Interesting blog to stumble across, got me wanting to go there next summer! Seems so far away though :) [ged software](#) | [ged study guide](#)

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[Ostrom had a great service in](#)

Submitted by [zesico](#) on Sat, 2011-11-19 02:12.

Ostrom had a great service in economic strategies. Here documentaries are spread all the corners. I was looking for this knowledge to share. so, please check out my site [Bolg Alanya](#) sometime and leave me a comment to let me know what you think.

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[Everybody need a workstation](#)

Submitted by [willymosley](#) on Sun, 2011-11-20 11:18.

Everybody need a workstation these days. From a corporation to procesig a data till a kid to play games. It's an exceedingly useful tool for our regularly occurring life. [memory foam mattresses](#)

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[Embedding this new](#)

Submitted by [sampaul3](#) on Sun, 2011-11-20 19:17.

Embedding this new commons-based participatory process into the way we think about and plan for the public realm will bring improvements in Minneapolis and nearly every other community around the world. This could have an enormous and everlasting effect on achieving our goals of creating places that are more sustainable and resilient. [phlebotomy certification](#) Thanks

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[Loading/unloading](#)

Submitted by [racking](#) on Mon, 2011-11-21 02:02.

Loading/unloading management.

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Usually the 2 points is contrary. That's is to say, to make high storage density, the loading job will be more complex. Although some special racking could make the balance, but the storage management system is much more complex. Of

course AS RS system is a good solution to solve the problem, but the cost is also extremely expensive. Most of customer couldn't afford it.

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