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# Chapter 3.

## A Commons Perspective to Understanding the Development of Information Infrastructures

### ABSTRACT

The critical review of the literature on information infrastructures has led to an identification of three key areas where future research needs to pay particular attention. These are: the multilevel context of infrastructural development, negotiations around that development, and intended and unintended outcomes emerging out of the implemented technologies. To understand the interdependencies between these three areas, this chapter explores research into other large-scale social systems (beyond information systems) to try to draw out some possible insights for information infrastructure research. In this effort, this chapter draws and adapts the Institutional Analysis and Development (IAD) framework – which was initially developed to study natural resource commons arrangements such as inshore fisheries, forests, irrigation systems, and pastures – while placing great emphasis on the complex problems and social dilemmas that often arise in the negotiations. The chapter concludes by highlighting the contribution of a commons perspective to understanding the development of information infrastructures.

### INTRODUCTION

One of the oldest areas of research into large-scale social systems with historical accounts dating back to medieval times (see Hanna, Folke, and Mäler, 1996), is research into commons arrangements such as inshore fisheries, forests, irrigation systems, and pastures (e.g. Balland and Platteau, 1996; Ostrom, 1990; Wade, 1994). Although it may be argued that research into traditional commons may not immediately lend itself to information infrastructure research, an increasing number of scholars has found the concept of the commons helpful to conceptualize new dilemmas concerning new information and communication technologies (Rheingold, 1993; Brin, 1995; Huberman and Rajan, 1997; Gupta et al., 1997).

Indeed, information infrastructure research is found to share a common concern with research into commons arrangements in that, both are preoccupied with the development of large-scale systems. Such large-scale systems are thought to be openly accessible by a large population of users, but, at the same time, there are efforts to ensure that the exploitation of private and state interests are not inhibited. That is, there are efforts to enforce clear standards and regulations of practice to enable all parties involved to enjoy the benefits emanating from these large-scale systems. At the same time, while seeking to achieve such a balance, the various parties interested in the development of these large-scale systems do not want to lose sight of emerging problems. These include – in the case of information infrastructures – the interplay between the ‘local’ needs of the users and the ‘global’ intentions and interests of the larger, distributed community (Rolland and Monteiro, 2002), and the tension between standardization and flexibility (Hanseth, Monteiro, and Hatling, 1996; Hanseth et al., 2006; Monteiro, 1998), among others.

# The Commons In Perspective

**National Research Council, Division of  
Behavioral and Social Sciences and  
Education, Committee on the Human  
Dimensions of Global Change**

## **The Commons In Perspective:**

**The Commons in Perspective** Philip Norton, 1981      The Commons in Perspective Philip Norton, 1981      **Commons Perspectives in South Korea** Hyun Choe, Ja-Kyung Kim, Hun-Gyo Jang, Yea-Yl Yoon, Suh-Hyun Park, 2022-03-13 Since its founding in 2011 the Research Center on the Commons and Sustainable Society has been at the forefront of Commons Research in South Korea This book brings together the discoveries and insights the Center has produced in its first decade as a contribution to international commons research and to the understanding of the commons in South Korea particularly Divided into five main parts the book charts the course of commons research in South Korea Part I surveys the historical background to commons thinking through the course of its foundation as a dictator led developmental state through to its current democratic and neoliberal status quo Following on from this Part II looks at how diverse commons perspectives have taken root during this period Part III then analyses the various specific fields through which commons research in Korea has grown After this Part IV presents the fruits of this commons research the alternative policies and social actions that have been proposed for Korean society Lastly Part V addresses the remaining challenges which ongoing commons research in Korea is seeking to address An insightful resource for scholars of both Korean political economy and commons studies more broadly

**Capitalism and the Commons** Andreas Exner, Sarah Kumnig, Stephan Hochleithner, 2020-12-30 Capitalism and the Commons focuses on the political and social perspectives that commons offer how they are appropriated or suppressed by capital and state and how social initiatives and movements contest these dynamics or build their struggles on commoning The volume comprises theoretical and empirical approaches that engage with three main themes conceptualizing the commons analyzing practices of commoning and exploring commons politics In their contributions the authors focus on the development of anti capitalist commons and explore the issue of practice and politics through case studies from Colombia the Democratic Republic of Congo South Africa and Africa more broadly Austria Germany and South Korea ranging from peri urban and rural agriculture to urban commons and how they manifest in the Global South as well as in the Global North The book engages with different discourses on the commons in regard to their relevance for social change and thereby reinvigorates the political meaning of the commons It provides an original and important approach to the topic in terms of conceptualization detailing diverse empirical realities and analyzing potential perspectives In so doing the book transcends narrow disciplinary boundaries and expands the focus to the global Providing a fresh perspective on the commons as a decisive component of alternatives this title will be relevant to scholars and students of resource management social movements and sustainable development more broadly

Space, Power and the Commons Samuel Kirwan, Leila Dawney, Julian Brigstocke, 2015-10-23 Across the globe political movements opposing privatisation enclosures and other spatial controls are coalescing towards the idea of the commons As a result struggles over the commons and common life are now coming to the forefront of both political activism and scholarly enquiry This book advances academic debates concerning

the spatialities of the commons and draws out the diverse materialities temporalities and experiences of practices of commoning Part one Materialising the Commons focuses on the performance of new geographical imaginations in spatial and material practices of commoning Part two Spaces of Commoning explores the importance of the turn from commons to commoning bringing together chapters focusing on the doing of commons and how spaces materials bodies and abstract flows are intertwined in these complex and excessive processes Part three An Expanded Commons explores the broader registers and spaces in which the concept of the commons is at stake and highlights how and where the commons can open new areas of action and research Part four The Capture of the Commons questions the particular interdependence of the commons and enclosure assumed within commons literature framed by the concept of neoliberalism Providing a comprehensive introduction to the diverse ways in which ideas of the commons are being conceptualised and enacted both throughout the social sciences and in practical action this book foregrounds the commons as an arena for political thought and sets an agenda for future research

**The Commons in a Glocal World** Tobias Haller,Thomas Breu,Tine De Moor,Christian Rohr,Heinzpeter Znoj,2019-04-30 This volume focuses on how in Europe the debate on the commons is discussed in regard to historical and contemporary dimensions critically referencing the work of Elinor Ostrom It also explores from the perspective of new institutional political ecology NIPE how Europe directly and indirectly affected and affects the commons globally Most of the research on the management of commons pool resources is limited to dealing with one of two topics either the interaction between local participatory governance and development of institutions for commons management or a political economy approach that focuses on global change as it is related to the increasingly globalised expansion of capitalist modes of production consumption and societal reproduction This volume bridges the two addressing how global players affect the commons worldwide and how they relate to responses emerging from within the commons in a global local glocal world Authors from a range of academic disciplines present research findings on recent developments on the commons including historical insights new innovations for participatory institutions building in Europe or several types of commons grabbing especially in Africa related to European investments and restrictions on the management of commons at the international level European case studies are included providing interesting examples of local participation in commons resource management while simultaneously showing Europe as a centre for globalized capitalism and its norms and values affecting the rest of the world particularly developing countries This book will be of interest to students and researchers from a wide range of disciplines including natural resource management environmental governance political geography and environmental history

*The Wealth of the Commons* David Bollier,Silke Helfrich,2014-05-23 We are poised between an old world that no longer works and a new one struggling to be born Surrounded by centralized hierarchies on the one hand and predatory markets on the other people around the world are searching for alternatives The Wealth of the Commons explains how millions of commoners have organized to defend their forests and fisheries reinvent local food systems organize

productive online communities reclaim public spaces improve environmental stewardship and re imagine the very meaning of progress and governance In short how they ve built their commons In 73 timely essays by a remarkable international roster of activists academics and project leaders this book chronicles ongoing struggles against the private commoditization of shared resources often known as market enclosures while documenting the immense generative power of the commons The Wealth of the Commons is about history political change public policy and cultural transformation on a global scale but most of all it s about individual commoners taking charge of their lives and their endangered resources This fine collection makes clear that the idea of the Commons is fully international and increasingly fully worked out If you find yourself wondering what Occupy wants or if some other world is possible this pragmatic down to earth and unsentimental book will provide many of the answers Bill McKibben author of Deep Economy The Wealth of Communities and The Durable Future

*Carving Out the Commons* Amanda Huron, 2018-03-13 An investigation of the practice of commoning in urban housing and its necessity for challenging economic injustice in our rapidly gentrifying cities Provoked by mass evictions and the onset of gentrification in the 1970s tenants in Washington D C began forming cooperative organizations to collectively purchase and manage their apartment buildings These tenants were creating a commons taking a resource housing that had been used to extract profit from them and reshaping it as a resource that was collectively owned by them In *Carving Out the Commons* Amanda Huron theorizes the practice of urban commoning through a close investigation of the city s limited equity housing cooperatives Drawing on feminist and anticapitalist perspectives Huron asks whether a commons can work in a city where land and other resources are scarce and how strangers who may not share a past or future come together to create and maintain commonly held spaces in the midst of capitalism Arguing against the romanticization of the commons she instead positions the urban commons as a pragmatic practice Through the practice of commoning she contends we can learn to build communities to challenge capitalism s totalizing claims over life [Rethinking Economics Starting from the Commons](#)

Valentina Rotondi, Paolo Santori, 2023-02-20 This book proposes a new approach to economics starting from the commons and based on the Economy of Francesco EoF a worldwide movement of young people who aim to change the current economic models and working towards a fair sustainable and inclusive economic system EoF was convened by Pope Francis and is inspired by the example of St Francis of Assisi featuring Franciscan economic roots and institutions as well as theories of the social sciences The authors raise and answer several important questions throughout the volume such as What if the economic courses taught in the universities across the globe focused their attention on the topics of the commons rather than on private goods What if social businesses rather than being considered as a hybrid form of businesses became the normal approach and ethical and green finance ruled over the standard financial sector Is it possible to move away from the primacy of the consumers to the preeminence of ethical consumers who express their preferences for an inclusive sustainable and workers friendly economic system with their daily choices Using a unique approach the book includes the contributions of

prominent scholars which are integrated and discussed by young international scholars providing a fresh analysis with a glance of hope for the future The book is a must read for students scholars and researchers of economics and related disciplines interested in alternatives to the current economic mainstream in general and the Economy of Francesco in particular **Biological Perspectives** ,2002-07-31 The Drama of the Commons National Research Council,Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education,Committee on the Human Dimensions of Global Change,2002-03-15 The tragedy of the commons is a central concept in human ecology and the study of the environment It has had tremendous value for stimulating research but it only describes the reality of human environment interactions in special situations Research over the past thirty years has helped clarify how human motivations rules governing access to resources the structure of social organizations and the resource systems themselves interact to determine whether or not the many dramas of the commons end happily In this book leaders in the field review the evidence from several disciplines and many lines of research and present a state of the art assessment They summarize lessons learned and identify the major challenges facing any system of governance for resource management They also highlight the major challenges for the next decade making knowledge development more systematic understanding institutions dynamically considering a broader range of resources such as global and technological commons and taking into account the effects of social and historical context This book will be a valuable and accessible introduction to the field for students and a resource for advanced researchers **The Commons in the New Millennium** Nives Dolsak,Elinor Ostrom,2003-02-14 Globalization population growth and resource depletion are drawing increased attention to the importance of common resources such as forests water resources and fisheries It is critical that these resources be governed in an equitable and sustainable way The Commons in the New Millennium presents cutting edge research in common property theory and provides an overview and progress report on common property research The book analyzes new problems that owners managers policy makers and analysts face in managing natural commons It examines recent findings about the physical characteristics of the commons their complexity and interconnectedness and the role of social capital It also provides empirical studies and suggestions for sustainable development The topics discussed include the role of financial political and social capital in deforestation community efforts to gain political influence in Indonesia the Maine lobster industry outcomes of the implementation of individual transferable quotas in New Zealand and Iceland fisheries and design of multilateral emissions trading for regional air pollution and global warming **Perspectives and Implications for the Development of Information Infrastructures** Constantinides, Panos,2012-05-31 In the same way that infrastructures such as transportation electricity sewage and water supply are widely assumed to be integrators of urban spaces information infrastructures are assumed to be integrators of information spaces With the advent of Web 2 0 and new types of information infrastructures such as online social networks and smart mobile platforms a more in depth understanding of the various rights to access use develop and modify information infrastructure

resources is necessary Perspectives and Implications for the Development of Information Infrastructures aims at addressing this need by offering a fresh new perspective on information infrastructure development It achieves this by drawing on and adapting theory that was initially developed to study natural resource commons arrangements such as inshore fisheries forests irrigation systems and pastures while placing great emphasis on the complex problems and social dilemmas that often arise in the negotiations

**Architecture for the Commons** Jose Sanchez,2020-08-04 Architecture for the Commons dives into an analysis of how the tectonics of a building is fundamentally linked to the economic organizations that allow them to exist By tracing the origins and promises of current technological practices in design the book provides an alternative path one that reconsiders the means of achieving complexity through combinatorial strategies This move requires reconsidering serial production with crowdsourcing and user content in mind The ideas presented will be explored through the design research developed within Plethora Project a design practice that explores the use of video game interfaces as a mechanism for participation and user design The research work presented throughout the book seeks to align with a larger project that is currently taking place in many different fields The Construction of the Commons By developing both the ideological and physical infrastructure the project of the Commons has become an antidote to current economic practices that perpetuate inequality The mechanisms of the production and governance of the Commons are discussed inviting the reader to get involved and participate in the discussion The current political and economic landscape calls for a reformulation of our current economic practices and alternative value systems that challenge the current market monopolies This book will be of great interest not only to architects and designers studying the impact of digital technologies in the field of design but also to researchers studying novel techniques for social participation and cooperating of communities through digital networks The book connects principles of architecture economics and social sciences to provide alternatives to the current production trends

**Proleptic Leadership on the Commons** Randal Joy Thompson,2020-10-22 Will capitalism give way to a commons centric society as many scholars and activists predict Viewing the commons as a vehicle for a new world order Randal Joy Thompson proposes proleptic leadership which envisions how leaders will continue to be essential as the custodians of responsible agency and conscious choice

**The Commons** John Palmer Gavitt,Graham Taylor,1897

**Commons, Sustainability, Democratization** Hans Peter Hansen,Birger Steen Nielsen,Nadarajah Sriskandarajah,Ewa Gunnarsson,2016-01-22 This book presents theoretical discussions and practical examples of Action Research from Scandinavia Latin America and Africa primarily dealing with how to combine nature conservation and management with local democratic community development seeing the renewal of Commons as a way to transcend the present dichotomy between these two dimensions

**Designing the Microbial Research Commons** National Research Council,Policy and Global Affairs,Board on Research Data and Information,2010-10-30 Recent decades have witnessed an ever increasing range and volume of digital data All elements of the pillars of science whether observation experiment or theory and modeling are being

transformed by the continuous cycle of generation dissemination and use of factual information This is even more so in terms of the re using and re purposing of digital scientific data beyond the original intent of the data collectors often with dramatic results We all know about the potential benefits and impacts of digital data but we are also aware of the barriers the challenges in maximizing the access and use of such data There is thus a need to think about how a data infrastructure can enhance capabilities for finding using and integrating information to accelerate discovery and innovation How can we best implement an accessible interoperable digital environment so that the data can be repeatedly used by a wide variety of users in different settings and with different applications With this objective to use the microbial communities and microbial data literature and the research materials themselves as a test case the Board on Research Data and Information held an International Symposium on Designing the Microbial Research Commons at the National Academy of Sciences in Washington DC on 8 9 October 2009 The symposium addressed topics such as models to lower the transaction costs and support access to and use of microbiological materials and digital resources from the perspective of publicly funded research public private interactions and developing country concerns The overall goal of the symposium was to stimulate more research and implementation of improved legal and institutional models for publicly funded research in microbiology **Routledge**

**Handbook of the Study of the Commons** Blake Hudson,Jonathan Rosenbloom,Dan Cole,2019-01-04 This comprehensive Handbook serves as a unique synthesis and resource for understanding how analytical frameworks developed within the literature assist in understanding the nature and management of commons resources Such frameworks include those related to Institutional Analysis and Development Social Ecological Systems and Polycentricity among others The book aggregates and analyses these frameworks to lay a foundation for exploring how they apply according to scholars across a wide range of disciplines It includes an exploration of the unique problems arising in different disciplines of commons study including natural resources forests oceans water energy ecosystems etc economics law governance the humanities and intellectual property It shows how the analytical frameworks discussed early in the book facilitate interdisciplinarity within commons scholarship This interdisciplinary approach within the context of analytical frameworks helps facilitate a more complete understanding of the similarities and differences faced by commons resource users and managers the usefulness of the commons lens as an analytical tool for studying resource management problems and the best mechanisms by which to formulate policies aimed at addressing such problems Chapter 26 of this book is freely available as a downloadable Open Access PDF at <http://www.taylorfrancis.com> under a Creative Commons Attribution Non Commercial No Derivatives CC BY NC ND 4 0 license **Balancing the Commons in Switzerland** Tobias Haller,Karina Liechti,Martin Stuber,François-Xavier Viallon,Rahel Wunderli,2021-03-28 Balancing the Commons in Switzerland outlines continuity and change in the management of common pool resources such as pastures and forests in Switzerland The book focuses on the differences and similarities between local institutions rules and regulations and forms of commoners organisations corporations of citizens



and corporations which have managed common property for several centuries and have shaped the cultural landscapes of Switzerland. At the core of the book are five case studies from the German, French and Italian speaking regions of Switzerland. Beginning in the Late Middle Ages and focusing on the transformative periods in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, it traces the internal and external political, economic and societal changes and examines what impact these changes had on commoners. It goes beyond the work of Robert Netting and Elinor Ostrom who discussed Swiss commons as a unique case of robustness by analysing how local commoners reacted to but also shaped changes by adapting and transforming common property institutions. Thus, the volume highlights how institutional changes in the management of the commons at the local level are embedded in the public policies of the respective cantons and the state, which generates a high heterogeneity and an actual laboratory situation. It shows the power relations and very different routes that local collective organisations and their members have followed in order to cope with the loss of value of the commons and the increased workload for maintaining common property management. Providing insightful case studies of commons management, this volume delivers theoretical contributions and lessons to be learned for the commons worldwide. This book will be of great interest to students and scholars of the commons, natural resource management and agricultural development.

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this chapter specifies the minimum design forces including dead load live load wind and earthquake loads miscellaneous loads and their various combinations

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web aug 8 2021 a load can be defined as a force that a building or structure must be able to resist building loads must be a primary consideration in any design to provide safety integrity and longevity when designing any new building or structure it is vital that due attention is paid to the loads that the finished building will be subjected to

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web loads are a primary consideration in any building design because they define the nature and magnitude of hazards or external forces that a building must resist to provide reasonable performance i e safety and serviceability throughout the structure s useful life

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