

# Governance and Prairie Restoration

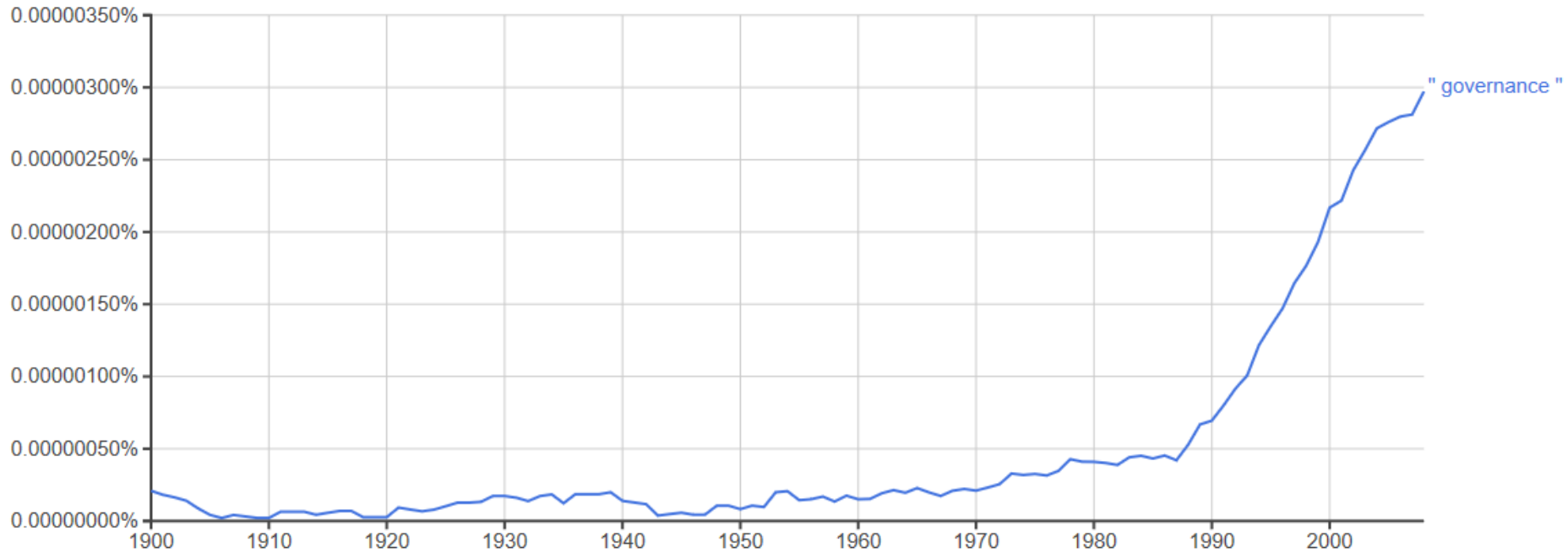


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# Governance



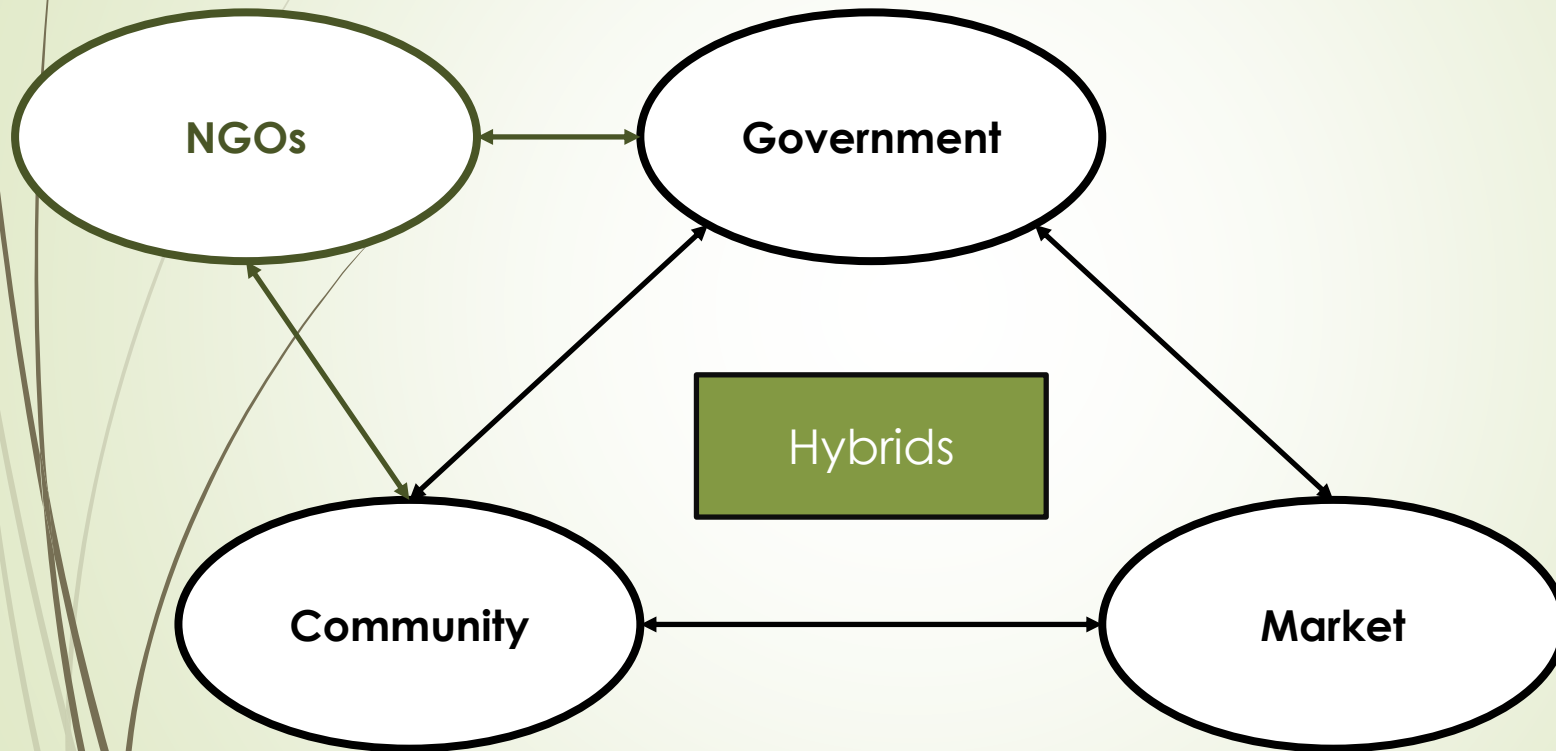


# Why all the noise?

- ▶ 'Hollowing of the state'
- ▶ Increase capacity
- ▶ Solve problems (e.g., prairie restoration)

“Governance is ultimately concerned with creating the conditions for ordered rule and collective action.” – Stoker, 1998

# What is governance?



# Why does governance matter for prairie restoration?



**We cannot restore an ecological landscape without considering the social landscape.**



# Social landscapes

- People and communities
  - Different cultures
  - Rules and norms
  - Livelihoods
  - Wellbeing
- 



# Social distance

- Differences in attitudes/opinions between different groups of people (e.g., rural and urban, farmers and conservationists)
- Misalignment of regulations/policy with local peoples' values and livelihoods.



# The big questions...

How can we advance prairie restoration without alienating local people?

What forms of governance seem promising?



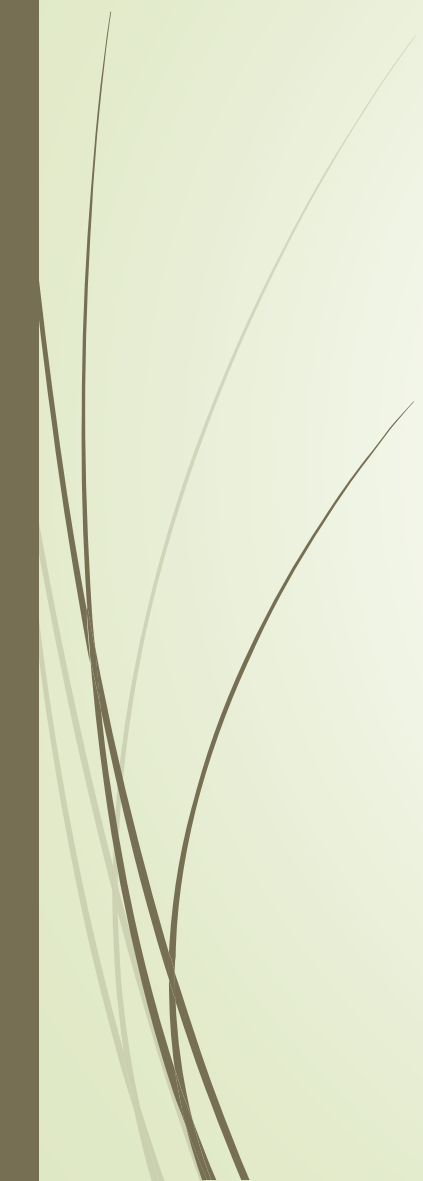


# Elinor Ostrom





# Ostrom's design principles

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1. Clearly defined boundaries
  2. Equity
  3. Collective choice
  4. Monitoring and evaluation
  5. Conflict resolution
  6. Nested levels of organization
  7. Robust, but flexible process
  8. Policy learning



Strive for an equal distribution of costs and benefits

## Lesson for prairie restoration

- ▶ Make sure that private landowners do not bare a disproportionate amount of the costs



# Collective choice

## Lesson for prairie restoration

- ▶ Implement restoration through multi-stakeholder, locally-rooted groups, associations or organizations that integrate local knowledge.



# Monitoring and evaluation

## Lesson for prairie restoration

- Monitor the permanence and ecological benefits associated with restoration activities
- Monitor the social and economic outcomes



# Nested levels of organization

## Lesson for prairie restoration

- ▶ Implement through locally-focused groups, but coordinate across landscapes (e.g., umbrella organizations, steering committees)



# Robust, but flexible process

## Lesson for prairie restoration

- ▶ Ensure clear, effective ecological targets for restoration, but leave space for local priorities and/or innovations.
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# Policy learning

## Lesson for prairie restoration

- ▶ Periodically revisit and revise the goals, strategies and approaches of restoration policy.





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# How does SODCAP improve governance capacity?

1. It attempts to remove the cost burden from private landowners.
2. It is a multi-stakeholder, collaborative platform.
3. It undertakes broad monitoring, and can work with government organizations as necessary.



# How does SODCAP improve governance capacity?

4. It seeks out collaboration with organizations at other scales (e.g., PCAP, TGP).
5. It promotes non-prescriptive programs.
6. Does it learn? Too early to tell...



# Concluding thoughts

- ▶ How can we ensure the persistence of collaborative initiatives into the future?
- ▶ How can we scale out the approach to other areas?

***Thank you!***