Policy learning for 'super wicked' problems:

Uncovering bottom up solutions for ameliorating the global climate crisis

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My presentation integrates four related collaborative projects on multi-stakeholder policy learning dialogues, public/private instrument mixes, policy pathways, and post-Paris climate change solutions to advance three arguments. First, drawing on Ostrom for inspiration, instrument design must be derived inductively based on the structural features of the target problem in question. Second, the global climate crisis is a 'super wicked' problem defined by four key features: time is running out; no central authority exists; those wishing to solve the problem are also causing it; and the future is discounted irrationally. Third, and related, successful intervention for addressing the climate crisis requires triggering 'path dependent' multiple step policy pathways that, together, work to constrain our future selves to champion our long-term interests.
I draw on multiple collaborative projects covering national climate policy, climate finance, technology, and forest resources management to illustrate how multi-disciplinary policy learning initiatives can uncover innovative solutions for triggering multiple-step pathways for decarbonization.