

# Open Access and “the commons”

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# Three views of the commons

- Hardin, “Tragedy of the Commons”
- Ostrom, *Governing the Commons*
- Hardt and Negri, *Commonwealth*

# The Tragedy of the Commons

- Common lands: pastures / waste dumps
- Assumption of “rational egoists”
  - Utility maximizers with only external reward
  - Private profit / shared costs
  - “market externalities”
- Accumulation of free-riders
- Degradation of the commons
- “socialism or privatism of free enterprise”

# Governing the Commons

- Lab results show strong reciprocators
  - conditional altruistic cooperators / punishers
  - fairness of process, not just outcomes
  - internal motivations
- Policies assuming only rational egoists will “crowd out” reciprocity / collective action
- Third option: self-organized institutions
  - Avoiding tragedy of the (anti-)commons

# Commonwealth

- Shared knowledge and communication media
  - Not subject to degradation / exhaustion
  - Product and presupposition of production
  - “comedy of the commons”: the more the merrier
- “immaterial labor”
  - Process/ product of capitalism today is social life
  - Desire, subjectivity, affect, communication
- IP and the “problem” of incentives
- Open access (and / to) public education