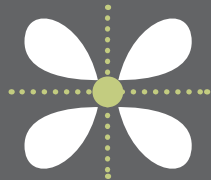# Community Right to Steward

& not just individual right to access

How might a community serve as an ally to its stakeholders?

Why? **Access** and **stewardship** in commons bear different modalities. Stewardship requires responsibility that isn't inherent to the right to access. For example, both a hunter and a soldier have different kinds of responsibility as well as levels of accountability.

Questions

How might a platform afford the use of a common resource in ways that stewardship matches expectations?

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_____

What experiences exemplify transfer of stewardship rights to communities?

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Collective Agency

Can human and non–human actors combine to present collective agency?

Why? Bruno Latour believes that the neutrality of an object (or resource) under complete human control is a myth. Non–human actors have agency. Using a resource changes both the resource and the individual or community of users. A commoning designer is aware of this.

Questions

How might a platform afford resource use that highlights the changes in the consequences of use?

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_____

How might we a platform situate knowledge in practice and contextualize it within concrete circumstances? How might platforms help communities make better sense of knowledge or data.

_____

_____

Permeable Boundaries

The boundary of a complex system is comparable to a cell's organic membrane e.g. the eardrum and it raises questions about limits i.e. where the 'ear' ends and 'not ear' begins? – paraphrased from Dave Snowden

Why? Commons must have permeable boundaries, that is, boundaries open enough to allow information and communication to pass through but closed to external influence.

Questions

What characterizes a permeable boundary?

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_____

What experiences balance difference with inclusion?

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_____

Upstream Benefit &
Downstream Impact

Downstream impact is a reality. It is reflects power inequalities and results in social dilemma challenges.

Elinor Ostrom refers to negative externalities i.e. the polluter gets the benefits of the pollution while population living downstream experiences its costs.

Questions

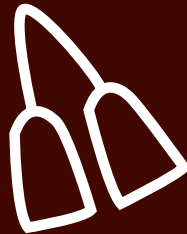**How might** upstream dynamics & decisions lead to downstream impact?

_____

How might we keep resource (e.g. data) accessible to a commons, yet free from destructive upstream influence?

_____
_____
_____

Role: **Town Crier**

Town criers existed in precolonial Nigeria to circulate information and call the villagers to meetings at the village square or the *Baale's* (chief) residence. A commoning designer serves the role of a town crier, which is to create conditions for participants to be able to gather.

Questions

How might a designer serve as a town crier on a platform?

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_____
_____

What experiences show the designer as serving this role

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Role:
Stewarding Commoner

Role:
Stewarding Commoner

Stewarding commoners work together to ensure that the commons are held within a set of rules. These rules affect operations, day–to–day decisions, as well as eligibility to participate.

Questions

How might a platform help stewarding commoners bring others to the table?

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_____
_____

What experiences exemplify the costs of exchange for stewarding commoners?

_____
_____
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Role:
Scribe

Role:
Scribe

A scribe participates in managing the commons by detailing agreements on a platform.

Questions

How might scribes, through a platform, help detail rules in use (de facto)?

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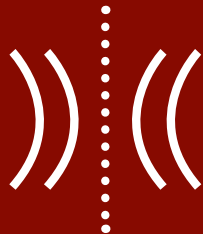_____

How might scribes, through a platform, help document rules on paper (de jure)?

_____
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Role: Exploiting Commoner

Role: Exploiting Commoner

An exploiting commoner is one who exploits a resource for individual gain but also to the detriment of others.

Questions

What are some calculations that cause an exploiting commoner to maximize self interest?

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How might a platform deal with issues of fairness, transparency, autonomy and agency?

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Role:
The Oracle

Role:
The Oracle

In southwest Nigeria, an oracle is a prophetic prediction through a medium. Data, like an oracle, is independent of truth. It supports arguments by presenting predictions strengthened by value ascribed to it.

– Raw Data is an Oxymoron

Questions

How might *small data* be used to create new narratives?

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What does *data situated in practice* look like?

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