

# Informetric Portrait of Elinor Ostrom, the Nobel Laureate in the Field of Economic Sciences

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## ABSTRACT

The publication productivity of Elinor Ostrom, the renowned American Political economist and the first woman laureate to win the most aspired highest prize that is the Nobel Prize in Economics in 2009 for her analysis of economic governance is analysed. The present study has analysed her 197 publications as indexed in Scopus using bibliometric methods covering the period 1965-2018. It is observed that during her 54 years of publication she published average 3-4 works each year. The years 2006, 2008- 2013 accounts for 103 publications i.e. 52.28% and they are the most productive years in her life. She published 85 single-authored papers and 112 multi-authored papers. James Michael Walker who co-authored 19 publications is the most prominent collaborator. Natural resources management is the prominent area of her research. Ostrom used 116 channels prominently being the journal articles covering 119 (60%) of her publications. Ostrom's works had high reception which can also be seen from the citations received; 50552 citations as per Scopus. Her Recency Index is nearly 0.47 which indicates that nearly 47% of her works are cited in the last five years. Ostrom's works are an inspiration for the future Nobel aspirants and researchers in economics because she designed a new principle and argued with proof that common resources are best utilised and best managed when they are managed by the localities of the areas where those resources are found. This provided an opportunity for the common people to earn a living as well as helped in the best utilisation of the resources which is a unique idea. Her works therefore opened up avenues to find out the new resources of various areas and continues to be important in the future. The bibliometric analysis attempts to draw some insights of her interesting and important work.

**Keywords:** Informetric Portrait, Nobel laureate, Elinor Ostrom, Common resources, Economic Sciences.

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## INTRODUCTION

The Nobel Prize is the highest prize for research accomplishment. The reputation of a nation and its scientific community depends upon these highest awards and the intellectuals eagerly wait to earn such appreciation for their hard work. In 1901, the Nobel Prizes were started in physics, chemistry, medicine or physiology, literature and peace. In 1968, the Central Bank of Sweden (Sveriges Riksbank), concurrence with its tercentenary celebration introduced a new award, "The Central Bank of Sweden Prize in Economic Science in Memory of Alfred Nobel" on the basis of an economic assurance by the bank in infinity. The award followed the same principles and rules as the original Nobel prizes.<sup>[1]</sup>

So, till date this prize is called as "The Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel". From 1969 to 2019 the total number of Nobel Laureates in economic sciences is 83. In the initial years and till 2008 no woman was awarded the Nobel Prize in Economic sciences but Elinor Ostrom, Professor at the University of Indiana, USA became the first woman to be honoured with the award in 2009 jointly with Oliver E. Williamson from University of California, Berkeley, CA, USA. Her win ensured that 2009 was a record-breaking Nobel year for women in Economic Sciences.

Ostrom's work was to go underneath the usual economic statements of the problem and examine the microeconomic nature of how institutions evolved to alleviate common property issues. In the process she became one of the leading political economists of her time.<sup>[2]</sup> Ostrom's ideas are so pertinent because they are not simply theoretical proposals or the result of some laboratory experiment. Rather, they are based on far-reaching compilation of real life cases in many different countries and cultures and for different types of commons. This type of research provides insights

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