THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL, AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Collective Action & Agricultural Drainage Institutions

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Research Topic Overview

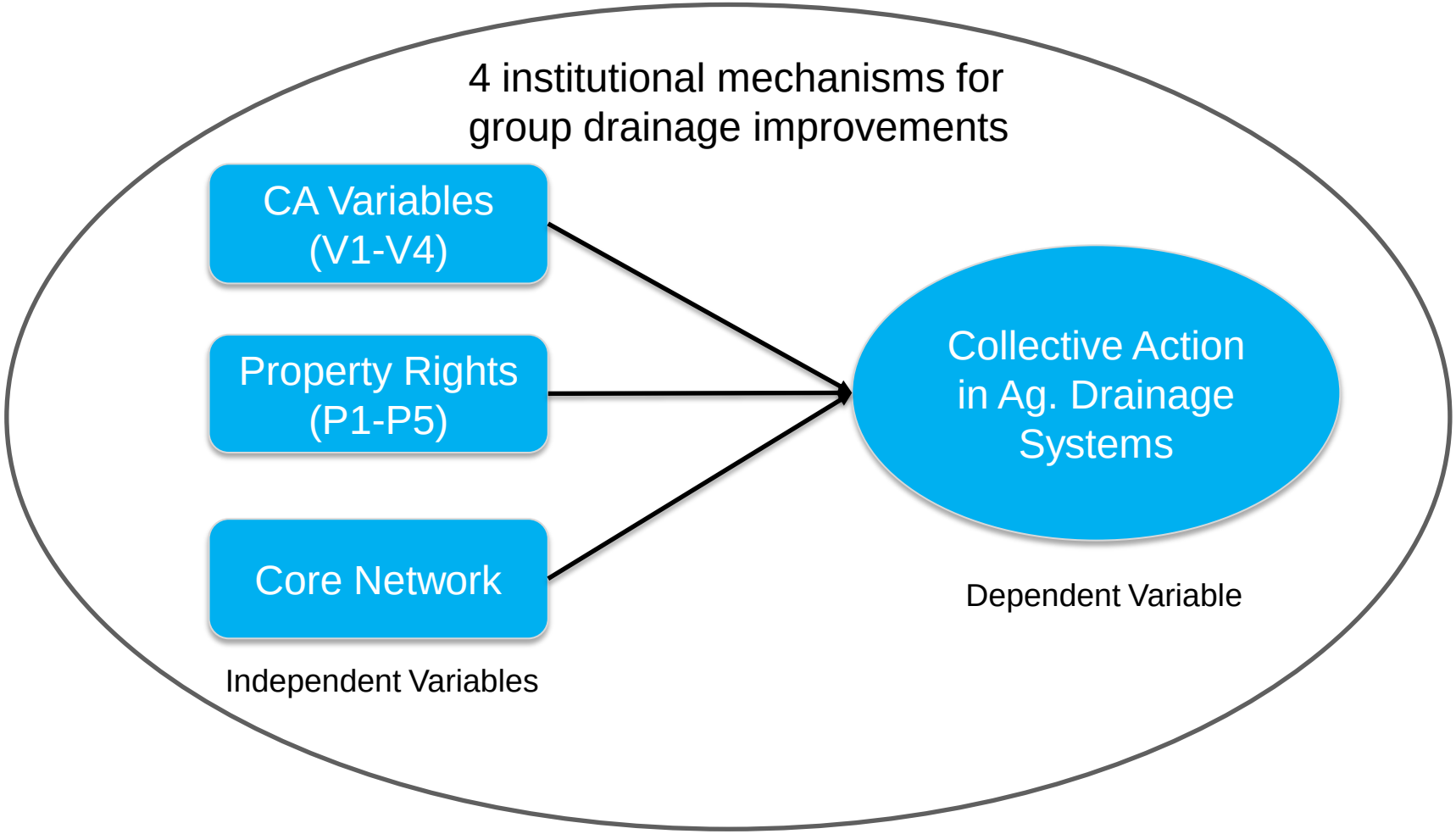
- Broadly, to understand collective action (CA) in Ag. Drainage Systems, in the Western Lake Erie Basin of Ohio
- Specifically, understand how institutional mechanisms interact with the following to affect CA in Ag. Drainage Systems:
  - CA variables – Group size (V1), Capability to choose to enter or exit from a group (V2), Heterogeneity in benefits and costs (V3), & Security of contributions (V4) (Poteete, et al., 2010)
  - Property rights of – Access (P1), Withdrawal (P2), Management (P3), Exclusion (P4), & Alienation (P5) (Schlager & Ostrom, 1992)
  - Core network of actors seeking advice on drainage ditches
- Overall Research Design – Comparative case-study (embedded) design (Yin, 2009)

The Four Institutional Mechanisms

Cases ↓	100% agreement (necessity + cost distribution)	Final decision (Approve/Disapprove project)	Can a landowner be forced to be part of the improvement?	Future maintenance
MA	Yes	Landowners	No	No
CP	No	County Commissioners (CCs)	Yes	Yes
SB160	No	SWCD board of supervisors	Yes	Yes
CD	No	CD Board	Yes	Yes

Notes: MA – Mutual Agreement; CP – County Petition; SB160 – Senate Bill 160; CD – Conservancy District Improvement; SWCD – Soil & Water Conservation District

Conceptual Model



Relevance to, & expectations from Autumn School

- From a methodological standpoint – to understand "unit of analysis" & get ideas about operationalizing my dependent variable
- Learning about, understanding & (possibly) applying the Property-Rights Theory in my own research
- Learning about, and using Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA) as a tool to analyze my core network of 19 nodes which comprises of actors who were identified most often by landowners (n = 506) as source of advice on drainage ditches
- Get ideas on how to use my Germany data-set (from a broader comparative case study design) – The 4 collective action variables (V1-V4) can be tested for how they affect CA in ag. drainage systems in the Elbe River Basin region of Brandenburg (13 interviews conducted in Summer 2015)
- To network, get feedback on my research (potential 2 chapters of my thesis)