5.4.1. Managing the commons in unequal societies. The case of Lombard Alps in XVIIIth century
Mocarelli, Luca, Milano Bicocca University, Italy
It is well known that common land play a leading role in mountain economics since the most important natural resources – pastures, meadows, wood, water – belonged and belonged to the communities and were and are used by the inhabitants. My paper will deal with the managing of commons in Lombard Alps in XVIIIth century stressing the features of the local societies. That means that I am interested in how unequal societies, such as those of mountain areas, managed the commons. In the Lombard Alps we can find a double inequality regarding the use of common resources. First of all we find a clear divide between the “antichi originari” (inhabitants settled there at least for a century) who had access to the commons and the “forestieri” (strangers) who had not. Secondly there was also a great inequality between originari and forestieri and among the same originari. The paper will focus on the way in which such a social and economic structure affected the managing of the commons, with special regards to the access and use of pastures and woods, and will demonstrate that in many cases the collective use of commons wasn’t the best solution in terms of equality.

5.4.2. Who, when, how and how much: The transformation of common property rights in alpine farming in early modern and modern times
Landolt, Gabriela, University of Bern, Switzerland
The paper examines how the common-property system regarding the use of alpine pastures in a mountain village in the canton Graubünden has evolved and changed over time. However, the use of the alpine pastures is strongly intertwined with the individual seasonal activities and the transformative process as well as with collective rights concerning common and private property in the valley, which therefore also need to be considered. The research is based on ethnographic data resulting from oral history interviews (going back to the early 20th century), on the analysis of written alp- and pasture regulations dating from 1805 until today and on second- ary historical literature enriched by selected court records from the 15th to the 18th century. By applying Jürg Ensminger’s model of institutional change (Ensminger 1992) I argue that the interaction between external (such as relative prices, agrarian policies or population growth) and internal factors (ideology, bargaining power, institutions, organizations), rather than a single dominant fac-
tor (North 2005) determine the transformation process and that this process is far from being linear and does not necessarily end in all property rights being privatised as suggested by Dienst (1967).

5.4.3. Village Federation. Institutional diversity and polycentric governance in northern Spain (Navarre, 14th-20th centuries)
Laborda Peman, Miguel, Utrecht University, Netherlands
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The aim of this paper is to contribute to the analysis of nested governance of common-pool resources from a long-term perspective. Due to research questions on pre-industrial societies, most papers were then published in pre-industrial societies’ Western literature. To answer them, we analyse two historical case studies of nested regimes. In particular, the Valley of Roncal and the Sierra de Lillo, both of them situated in Navarre, northern Spain, arranged across several levels the management and use of grazing pastures and forests already by the 14th century.

5.4.4. From State to anarchical market. Lessons from the past for a collective action approach – the Albanian mountainous commons
Bernard, Claire, Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Montpellier, France
Lerin, Francois, Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Montpellier, France
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Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (MAPs) is an important sector of the agrarian economy today in Albania, counting for approximately €325 exports, 60,000 cultivators, various localised value chains and first transformation industries. Wild MAPs collection mainly occurs in common mountainous pasture and forest lands, and was based on traditional uses in pastoral and medicinal local practices. The real economic take off and massive collection of the resource occurred during the communist regime, to fulfill the need of export based cash-flows. It was a total State organized system structured by cooperatives and State farms. After the regime collapse, the MAPs sector was basically driven by commercial forces and markets. This drastic change is, for the theory of collective action of great interest, because neither one system nor the other totally abolished the existence of the commons as commons. Our communication will highlight major institutional problems related to the management of commons throughout the conventions and agreements organizing the MAPs’ collection. An anecdotical (and yet not done) analysis of these two systems will provide indications for a comparison of the contemporary and Albanian archives for the past periods (1860-1991) is of great interest for today’s challenges. Both in terms of rural development and agro-biodiversity conservation, there is a need to find innovative ways for a collective action to sustainably rule these commons. Neither State nor markets are able to deal with identified pressures against MAPs resources.

Participants

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