# Contents

List of Illustrations	xiii
List of Tables	xv
Acknowledgments	xvii
Prologue	xxi
PART ONE: Introduction	
Chapter One	
Overcoming Methodological Challenges	3
Social Science Debates over the Superiority of Particular Methods	7
Multiple Methods: Promises and Challenges	11
Practical Challenges and Mathodological Trade Offe	14

overcoming Methodological Challenges	3
Social Science Debates over the Superiority of Particular Methods	7
Multiple Methods: Promises and Challenges	11
Practical Challenges and Methodological Trade-Offs	14
Technological Development and the Costs of Border Crossing	15
Availability and Accessibility of Data	17
Career Incentives as Methodological Constraints	18
Training	19
Career Incentives and Specialization	20
Our Substantive Focus	21
Interactions between Theory and Methods	23
Multiple Methods and Collaborative Research	23
Practical Constraints on Methodological Choices	23
Career Incentives and Methodological Practice	24
Outline of the Book	24

## PART Two: Field Methods

Chapter Two	
Small-N Case Studies: Putting the Commons under a	
Magnifying Glass	31
The Conventional Theory of the Commons	31
The Case Study Method	33
Cases, Case Studies, and Case Study Research	33
Analytical Strengths and Weaknesses	34
Practical Considerations	37
Synthesizing Challenges and Coordinating New Research Efforts	39
Contributions to the Study of the Commons	45
Property Rights and Tenure Security	45

	-	Castanta
V111		Contents
ATTT		00

Group Characteristics	52
Resource Characteristics	57
Case Studies as a Foundation	60
CHAPTER THREE	64
Broadly Comparative Field-Based Research	65
Methodological Practices over Fifteen Years of Research	66
Defining the Units of Analysis	68
Trading Geographic Scope for Numbers?	74
Theoretical Aspirations and Methodological Practices	COLUMN STATES
Practical Challenges to Broadly Comparative Field-Based Research	75
Costs of Data Collection	76
Research Design and Sampling	78
The Implications of Data Scarcity and Costliness	78
Meta-Analysis: An Introduction Weighing the Benefits and Costs of Meta-Analysis	81
Coding Strategies and Missing Data	81
Potential Sources of Sample Bias	83
The Choice of Methodological Strategy: Weighing Costs	
against Control	86
CHAPTER FOUR	89
Meta-Analysis: Getting the Big Picture through Synthesis	89
Meta-Analysis: A Recapitulation	90
The Common-Pool Resource (CPR) Research Program	92
Defining Variables	93
Compensating for Gaps in Case Materials	94
Contributions	101
Overall Assessment	102
NIIS: A Hybrid Approach Adaptation of the CPR Protocols	103
Adaptation of the CPR Protocols Measurement and Sampling	104
Contributions	105
Overall Assessment	107
Other Synthetic Studies	107
Additional Examples of Meta-Analysis	108
An Example of Narrative Synthesis	111
Progress and Continuing Challenges	113
Chapter Five	115
Collaborative Field Studies	
Collaboration in Field-Based Research, 1990-2004	116 118
Two Research Partnerships	118

	118
1.2	120
io noine	124
	124
	126
	127
	128
	129
	132
	angal So antal Pa anta 200 anta 200 fattor of chartos ang Ling ang Ling

### PART THREE: Models and Experiments in the Laboratory and the Field

Chapter Six	
Experiments in the Laboratory and the Field	141
The Experimental Method	142
Laboratory Experiments of Relevance to the Study of	
the Commons	144
Public Goods Experiments	146
Common-Pool Resource Experiments	150
Insights from Public Goods and Common-Pool Resource	
Experiments in the Laboratory	153
Face-to-Face Communication in the Laboratory	153
Heterogeneity	156
Sanctioning Experiments	158
Field Experiments	159
Toward a New Generation of Experiments of Commons Dilemmas	163
New Developments in Laboratory Experiments	164
Toward a New Generation of Field Experiments	168
Conclusion	169
Chapter Seven	
Agent-Based Models of Collective Action	171
A Brief Introduction to Agent-Based Modeling	171
Cellular Automata	172
Networks	173
Agents	174
Strengths and Weaknesses of Agent-Based Models	175
Repeated Prisoner's Dilemma	177
Cooperation among Egoists	177
Evolving Strategies in Prisoner's Dilemma Tournaments	178
Spatial Games	180

#### x • Contents

Spatial Social Dilemma Games	180
Spatial Public Goods Games	181
Indirect Reciprocity	182
Evolution of Costly Punishment	185
Evolution of Social (Meta) Norms	187
Future Challenges	188
Conclusion	191
Chapter Eight	
Building Empirically Grounded Agent-Based Models	194
Comparing Simulations with Data	195
Different Approaches to Combine Empirical Data and	
Agent-Based Models	196
Agent-Based Models of Laboratory and Field Experiments	198
Role Games and Companion Modeling	204
Models of Case Studies	207
Methodological Challenges	210
Conclusion	212

# PART FOUR: Synthesis

Chapter Nine	
Pushing the Frontiers of the Theory of Collective Action and	
the Commons	215
Synopsis of Research Developments Reviewed in Parts II and III	217
Toward a More General Behavioral Theory of Human Action	220
Assumptions of a Behavioral Theory	222
The Centrality of Trust	226
Unpacking the Concept of Context	227
The Microsituational Context	228
The Impact of Microsituational Variables on Cooperation	228
The Challenge of Linking Contextual Scales	231
The Broader Scale Affecting Collective Action	232
Ontological Frameworks	233
An Ontological Framework of Social-Ecological Systems	234
Predicting Self-Organization Drawing on the SES Framework	236
Diagnosing Institutional Change	239
Challenges for Future Research	243
Conclusion	245
APPENDIX 9.1: A Theoretical Puzzle: Why Do Some Resource	
Users Self-Organize and Others Do Not?	246

Chapter Ten	
Learning from Multiple Methods	248
Interlocking Developments in Methods and Theory	249
Methodological and Disciplinary Cross-Fertilization and	
Theoretical Innovation	251
Sequential Movement between Methods and Disciplines	252
Combining Multiple Methods and Disciplines in a Program	
of Research	255
Spaces for Cross-Fertilization	257
Practical Challenges	258
Trade-Offs in Training and Research	258
Professional Incentives	260
Collaborative Research as a Collective-Action Problem	262
Rewards to Individual and Collaborative Research	263
Fragmentation of Academia	265
Misunderstandings and Mistrust	266
Long-Term Funding	269
Responding to the Challenges	270
Looking Forward	271
A starting and best score of a life run of a population	275
Notes	
References	289
Index	339