

### Co-operative Governance by the Numbers An Examination of What Co-ops Get Right (and Wrong)

#### The Hartley and Margaret Fredeen Scholarship in Co-operative Studies Seminar

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Whether because of legislation or “best practices,” co-ops are increasingly adopting “one-size-fits-all” governance mechanisms originally intended for investor-owned firms. These systems may be unsuitable. If organizations differ in meaningful ways, then governance mechanisms designed for one organizational type may not fit another. Misfitting governance may decrease board effectiveness and hamper firm performance.

Using research funded by the Hartley and Margaret Fredeen Scholarship, Travis Reynolds will discuss how types of co-ops vary in terms of structure and governance practices. If co-ops differ amongst themselves, then any “one-size-fits-all” governance system is likely to be inappropriate.

Co-op boards and managers need to understand the current state of co-operative governance in order to ensure organizational success. If co-ops are to continue to grow in prominence, they need to show that they are governed properly. This presentation provides insight into where co-operatives get governance right, and where they’ve got work to do.

Travis’s research interests include corporate governance, co-operatives, and behavioural economics. When not working on his dissertation, he can be found riding in the mountains around Canmore, either on his mountain bike or snowboard.



Friday, 15 December 2017, 3:00–4:30 pm  
Prairie Room, Diefenbaker Building, U of S Campus  
Video presentation with live Q&A  
Refreshments to follow in the River Room

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