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## THE BANQUET OF (CULTURAL) COMMONS

Raúl de Arriba, *University of Valencia*  
María Vidagañ, *University of Zaragoza*

### ABSTRACT

“...the absence of the motive of gain; the absence of the principle of laboring for remuneration; the absence of the principle of least effort. But how, then, is order in production and distribution ensured?” K. Polanyi (1944) tried to answer this question in *The Great Transformation*.

Cultural Commons are cultural resources shared by a community that, like other situations of collective action, also reproduce social dilemmas. In these cases, as indicated by Olson, rational, self-interested individuals could not act to achieve their common or group interests. In that sense, the tragedy of Cultural Commons would mean its disappearance due to free riding behavior.

However, many cultural commons are maintained over time because reciprocity, reputation, and trust can overcome self-interested behavior. The inhabitants of Villastrada (Italy) have achieved it for decades. Every summer, they work voluntarily to organize the festivities of this small village.

### Keywords

cultural commons, social dilemmas, collective action, cooperation, social interaction

### Bio

**Raúl de Arriba** is PhD in Economics and associate professor in Economic Policy at the University of Valencia (Spain) since 2000. He has written about international economic policy, pluralism and creativity in teaching economics and art and economics. He has been visiting researcher in Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales (France) and Research Center in Political Science and International Relations (Portugal), among others.

**María Vidagañ** is PhD in Art Education. She is Bachelor of Fine Arts, and professor of the Department of Musical, Plastic and Corporal Expression of the University of Zaragoza. She has done research work on artistic education, audiovisual creation, research based on the arts and has some publications and communications on this subject. Her current lines of research are art education, audiovisual creation and art-based research.

[dearriba@uv.es](mailto:dearriba@uv.es)

[mavimur@unizar.es](mailto:mavimur@unizar.es)

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<https://www.dropbox.com/s/p6g005xcffinw6fz/The%20banquet%20of%20the%20%28Cultural%29%20Commons.mp4?dl=0>

