GOVERNING CORPORATE KNOWLEDGE COMMONS

Human interactions, in any group or social setting, rely on and generate shared knowledge and social understandings. These shared intellectual resources are just as important to the efficient operation of markets and organizations as are their shared legal and material infrastructures. *Governing Corporate Knowledge Commons* focuses on the formal and informal arrangements that govern the creation and community management of intellectual resources within and across organizational boundaries. It demonstrates how the Governing Knowledge Commons (GKC) framework can be fruitfully combined with existing theoretical work on firms and corporate governance found in economics, management, and sociology. The volume also proposes a new set of case studies, ranging from old industrial enterprises to modern venture capital, investor alliances, and decentralized autonomous organizations. Chapters explore the benefits of participatory approaches to the management of genomic or financial data, online gaming communities, and organic waste. This title is also available as open access on Cambridge Core.

David Gindis works at the intersections of corporate law, law and economics, institutional theory, and the history of economic thought. He is a cofounder of the World Interdisciplinary Network for Institutional Research (WINIR) and an Associate Professor at the University of Warwick School of Law (UK).

CAMBRIDGE STUDIES ON GOVERNING KNOWLEDGE COMMONS

The mission of the series is to provide an authoritative space for high quality scholarship on the governance of knowledge commons. Following the path pioneered by Elinor Ostrom, recipient of the Nobel Prize in Economics for her work on institutional analysis of commons regimes in the natural environment, and the editors' work in *Governing Knowledge Commons*, this series uses a similar framework to systematically study knowledge commons in various sectors. Readers seeking more information on knowledge commons and this series can visit http://knowledge-commons.net, a repository for scholarship produced by an international, interdisciplinary group of knowledge commons researchers.

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Governing Corporate Knowledge Commons

Edited by

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Acknowledgments

This volume began some years ago as a discussion with Pavel Kuchař about how to extend Bloomington School ideas to business firms and other corporate entities. Simon Deakin had suggested in the context of the corporate governance debate that it was useful to think of the corporation as a commons, and we were drawn to this proposal and wanted to take it forward. We first spelled out a rather tentative position at the World Interdisciplinary Network for Institutional Research (WINIR) Workshop on Polycentricity, Markets, and Firms, which I organized online in December 2021. Given Pavel's work on *Governing Markets as Knowledge Commons* – a volume edited with Erwin Dekker that was published in this series roughly at the same time – the conversation naturally shifted toward what the Governing Knowledge Commons (GKC) framework had to offer. Shortly after, Pavel approached Brett Frischmann, Mike Madison, and Kathy Strandburg with the idea of putting together a GKC volume on corporations and received an enthusiastic response.

We solicited some contributions and selected the remainder through an open call. A workshop with many of the volume's current contributors was held at King's College London in February 2024, thanks to funding from the Centre for the Study of Governance and Society that Pavel arranged. I subsequently organized Governing Corporate Knowledge Commons sessions in June and September 2024, respectively, at the Workshop on the Ostrom Workshop in Bloomington, Indiana, and the WINIR Conference on Institutional Resilience and Recovery at the University of Pittsburgh. Special thanks go to Brett Frischmann for his thoughtful comments and encouragement in Pittsburgh, not to mention the invitation to present the volume at the GKC Convergence Conference held at the University of Villanova in May 2025.

Given his key role in the process, Pavel's retreat from the project for personal and professional reasons in March 2025, just as outstanding chapters were arriving and the session at the Villanova conference was in the works, was a huge loss. Although, as a result, I am now listed as the volume's sole editor, this is very much the fruition

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of a joint project, which owes much to Pavel's intellectual contributions and dedication. I therefore extend my gratitude to the editors of the Cambridge Studies on Governing Knowledge Commons for supporting this project on Pavel's behalf as well.

Of course, if this volume breaks new ground, it is thanks to the rich and diverse perspectives its excellent contributors have on the topic of corporate knowledge commons. Their engagement with feedback is greatly appreciated. Finally, I would like to thank the three reviewers of the book proposal for their helpful comments, and, of course, Matt Gallaway and Jadyn Fauconier-Herry at Cambridge University Press for their invaluable help along the way.

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