



Canadian Labour Market and Skills Researcher Network (CLSRN) Newsletter

The CLSRN: Supporting Labour Market Research and Scholarly Development since 2006

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FALL 2013

CLSRN 8th Annual Conference: Vancouver, BC: 29 May 2014 – Call for Papers

Special points of interest:

- CLSRN 8th Annual Conference and Call for Papers
- CLSRN Spotlight: Nicole M. Fortin
- CLSRN PhD Fellows: Where are they now?
- IRPP/CLSRN Program on Inequality: Conference
- Update on CLSRN/BC Government Immigration Research Program

The Canadian Labour Market and Skills Research Network (CLSRN) will hold its eighth annual conference in Vancouver on May 29, 2014. The conference will take place on the day before the annual meetings of the Canadian Economics Association (May 30-June 1, 2014).

Individuals wishing to present a paper should submit it, or an abstract, by February 1, 2014. Submissions should be sent to: clsrn@mail.ubc.ca. The announcement of accepted papers will be made around Monday, February 17, 2014.

The CLSRN is a network of academic and government researchers interested in

strengthening our understanding of the Canadian labour market. CLSRN is supported by a SSHRC Strategic Knowledge Cluster grant. The academic director of CLSRN is Craig Riddell.

The Program Committee for this year's conference is:

Arthur Sweetman, McMaster University (Chair of Program Committee); Kelly Foley, University of Saskatchewan; Ted McDonald, University of New Brunswick; Annette Ryan, Employment and Social Development Canada; Tammy Schirle, Wilfrid Laurier University

CLSRN 2013 Summer School, June 13-14, 2013, Toronto: Another Success

CLSRN hosted its third biennial Summer School for graduate students at the School of Public Policy & Governance at the University of Toronto on June 13-14, 2013. This year's CLSRN Summer School sessions featured lectures on substantive and methodological advances in labour economics research by Professors Jesse Rothstein (University of California, Berkeley) and Lowell Taylor (Carnegie Mellon University)

Dr. Rothstein's presentation covered topics in:
"The Great Recession: Unemployment Insurance and Structural Issues"

"Education: Broad Trends, Resource Effects & School Effects"

"Education: Teacher Effectiveness: Measurement and Policy"

"Race: Racial Gaps, Segregation, Peer Effects, and Affirmative Action"

Dr. Taylor's presentations covered topics in:
"The Principal-Agent Model with Applications to Labour Markets"



Lowell Taylor (Carnegie Mellon University) presenting during the 3rd biennial CLSRN Summer School in Toronto, June 13-14, 2013.

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Dr. Jesse Rothstein (University of California-Berkeley) in conversation with CLSRN Summer School attendees

CLSRN Summer School (con't)

"Ideas from Behavioral Economics for Understanding Incentives in Organizations"

"Inequality in the U.S.: Trends, Measurement, and Skill Biased Technical Change"

"Search Models and their Applications"

The CLSRN Summer School represents the network's deep commitment to the promotion of innovative empirical research methods as well as its support of new scholars. The Summer School also provides a unique opportunity for new scholars to meet and collaborate early in their careers and build relationships that they can take with them as they move from the role of student to academic or professional economist. The Summer School is also a vehicle for a "meeting of the minds," allowing emerging academic scholars to network with public and private sector economists.

CLSRN Spotlight: Nicole M. Fortin



**Dr. Nicole M. Fortin
(University of British Columbia)**

Nicole M. Fortin is a Professor of Economics at the University of British Columbia, a position that she has held since 1999. Prior to joining the department at UBC, she taught at the Université de Montréal for ten years. She has held visiting positions at numerous institutions including University College London, Harvard, Princeton, Stanford, and the University of California at Berkeley. She is a research fellow in the SIWVB program of the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research and at IZA, the International Institute for the Study of Labor. She is also a research director at CLSRN.

She has three main streams of research. A first stream revolves around wage inequality and its links to labour market institutions and public policies, including higher education policies. A second stream focuses on the economic progress of women, gender equality policies, and gender issues in education. A third stream includes contributions to decomposition methods, namely the widely used DFL reweighting decomposition methodology and the newer RIF (recentered influence function) regression methodology, both published in *Econometrica*.

Her paper (with John DiNardo and Thomas Lemieux) "Labor Market Institutions and the Distribution of Wages, 1973–1992: a Semiparametric Approach" (*Econometrica*, September 1996) won the 1996 Minnesota Award, for the best article on the role of institutions in the labor market published in the preceding two years. The proposed reweighting methodology, known as DFL, is widely used. As of December 5, 2013, the paper has the following citations numbers, Google cites: 2,019, Web of Science: 514.

Born in Montreal, she now enjoys living in beautiful Vancouver, B.C. with husband Thomas and daughter Caroline with whom she enjoys cooking plant-based delicacies. A former white-water slalom racer, she enjoys the occasional rafting expedition on West Coast rivers, skiing at Whistler-Blackcomb, and swimming long lengths at Kits Pool.

Some of Dr. Fortin's recent research includes:

Fortin, N.M., David A. Green, Thomas Lemieux, Kevin Milligan, and W. Craig Riddell (2012) "Canadian Inequality: Recent Developments and Policy Options," *Canadian Public Policy*, 38: 121-145.

Fortin, N.M., T. Lemieux and S. Firpo, (2011) "Decomposition Methods," in O. Ashenfelter and D. Card (eds.) *Handbook of Labor Economics*, Vol. 4A, Amsterdam: North-Holland, pages 1-102.

Forthcoming publications include:

Fortin, N.M., Andrew J. Hill, and Jeff Huang (2014) "Superstition in the Housing Market" *Economic Inquiry*, in press.



A former white-water slalom racer, Dr. Fortin still enjoys the occasional West Coast rafting expedition, as well as skiing at Whistler-Blackcomb and swimming long lengths at Kits Pool in Vancouver.

CLSRN/IRPP Research Program on Inequality in Canada

Issues related to inequality have been at the forefront of public debate in Canada over the last few years. In response, in the fall of 2012, CLSRN embarked on a research program on inequality in conjunction with the IRPP. While many of our members have already taken an active role in the debate, bringing an array of experts together in a concentrated project has the potential to make lasting contributions both to our knowledge about inequality in Canada and to the debate over potential policy responses.

The project has two components. In the first, a set of some of the top researchers on inequality in Canada are contributing papers to a special issue of the Canadian Journal of Economics. Those contributions will serve, in part, to feed into a conference and ensuing book entitled, "Inequality in Canada: Driving Forces, Outcomes, and Policy". The conference will be held at the Delta Ottawa City Centre on February 24-25, 2014 and will include not only leading scholars but also policy makers and other experts in the area. This will lead to a volume in the IRPP's influential Art of the State series. The approach of having core research published in a peer reviewed journal feed into a public policy conference and volume is unique and exciting.

The keynote speaker for the conference is David Autor from MIT. The conference has open attendance, though there will be a limit on the number of spaces available. Registration fees are \$295. For further details, please send an enquiry to: clsrn@mail.ubc.ca

CLSRN PhD Fellows: Where are they now?

Matias Cortes

Matias Cortes is an Assistant Professor in the economics department at the University of Manchester (UK). He was a CLSRN PhD Fellow during his doctoral studies at the University of British Columbia, where he completed his PhD in 2012 under the supervision of Nicole Fortin, Giovanni Gallipoli and David Green.

His primary research field is Labour Economics, with a focus on occupational mobility and technological change. His doctoral research focuses on the individual-level patterns underlying the process of job polarization: the decline in employment in middle-wage jobs which has been observed in many developed countries over recent decades. The findings uncover the patterns of occupational mobility for workers in these declining occupations, as well as the wage changes experienced by workers impacted in different ways by the changing structure of the labour market. One key finding is that, in the long run, workers switching out of declining middle-wage occupations experience faster wage growth than those who stay, even when switching to occupations that traditionally pay lower wages. His current work is expanding on the issues around job polarization by highlighting the role of transitions in and out of the labour force in accounting for the decline of employment in middle-wage occupations, and by studying which demographic groups are primarily responsible for these changes in transition patterns.



Matias Cortes
(University of Manchester)



Danielle Lamb

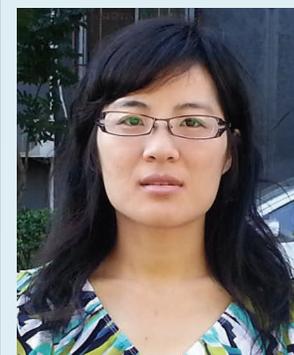
Danielle Lamb is currently an Assistant professor at the Ted Rogers School of Management, Ryerson University in Toronto, Ontario. Danielle completed her PhD in Industrial Relations and Human Resource Management in 2012 under the direction of Dr. Morley Gunderson at the University of Toronto. Danielle's doctoral research was an empirical analysis of earnings, unemployment and education among various Aboriginal groups in Canada. Danielle is continuing to research the labour market trajectories of Aboriginal Canadians, specifically, for example, examining the role of culturally sensitive curriculum and learning environments on the educational attainment of Aboriginal persons. Danielle is also interested in broader issues of labour market behavior, policy and inequality. Danielle enjoys teaching a number of courses in Industrial Relations and Human Resource Management.

Danielle Lamb
(Ryerson University)

Chao Sarah Wang

Chao Sarah Wang is currently an Assistant Professor at the Capital University of Economics and Business in China. Sarah earned her PhD in economics at McMaster University in 2013, under the supervision of Jeremiah Hurley, Arthur Sweetman and Lonnie Magee. She received her CLSRN PhD fellowship in 2011.

Sarah's research interests include Health Economics, Labour Economics and Applied Econometrics. Her PhD thesis consists of three empirical essays on physician labour supply and supplemental health insurance in Canada. One chapter of her thesis entitled "Gender, Family Status and Physician Labour Supply" (co-authored with Arthur Sweetman) was published in *Social Science & Medicine* in October 2013. Her research also focuses on theoretical models of physician behavior and health policy analysis.



Chao Sarah Wang
(Capital University of Economics and Business)



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The CLSRN (www.clsrn.econ.ubc.ca) is a network of academic researchers interested in strengthening the understanding of the Canadian labour market. Based at the University of British Columbia, and national in scope, the CLSRN consists of established scholars and promising new researchers from the fields of economics, industrial relations, political science, sociology, business, history, policy studies and labour studies. The CLSRN was established as a multipartite partnership between academic researchers, the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) and Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC). CLSRN is funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) under its Strategic Knowledge Clusters Program. Research activities of CLSRN are carried out with support of Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC).

A thank you to Stephen R.G. Jones



Stephen R. G. Jones
(McMaster University)

The CLSRN would like to acknowledge Stephen R. G. Jones for stepping in as acting director during Craig Riddell's recent absence due to personal reasons. This was Steve's second stint as acting director, having previously taken on the position in 2009-2010. Steve has played a vital role in CLSRN since its inception, including leading research programs, serving on the executive committee, and chairing the annual conference organizing committee.

Upcoming Events / Calls for Papers

The following is a list of upcoming events that may be of interest to CLSRN members:

- Conference: Inequality in Canada: Driving Forces, Outcomes, and Policy. February 24-25, 2014, Ottawa
- Call For Papers: CLSRN 8th Annual Conference, 29 May 2014, Vancouver (Papers/Abstracts Due: February 1, 2014) ([RFP](#))

For more information about these events please follow the CLSRN's Twitter Feed (www.twitter.com/CLSRN) or join the CLSRN mailing list.

Improving Immigration Outcomes in British Columbia

A teleconference/workshop was held on November 8, 2013 on the CLSRN's joint program with the BC Ministry of Jobs, Tourism, and Skills Training (JTST): "Improving Immigration Outcomes in British Columbia".

Chaired by program director Dr. Christopher Worswick (Carleton University), the workshop featured the following research projects:

Ana Ferrer & Alicia Adsera, "The Labour Market Outcomes of Married Immigrant Women"

Jonathan Wood & Herbert Schuetze, "Immigrant Networks, Occupational Choice, and Match Quality"

Wen Ci, Marcel Voia, & Michael Haan, "The "Anchor" Effects of Non-economic Factors on the Geographical Retention of Canadian Immigrants: an Empirical Study of the Immigrants' Migration Decision"

Casey Warman, "The Relative Economic Outcomes of Immigrants in British Columbia"

"Improving Immigration Outcomes in British Columbia" is a research program that strives to aid in the betterment of economic outcomes among immigrants to British Columbia by determining indicators of immigrant economic success and how governments can use these indicators to enhance immigrant economic outcomes; as well as determine the causes of immigrant unemployment/underemployment and determine the best ways to improve immigrant skills utilization.