



Canadian Labour Market and Skills Researcher Network (CLSRN) Newsletter

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

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Special points of interest:

- CLSRN 4th Annual Conference a Success!
- CLSRN Apprenticeship Program successfully concludes in Vancouver
- Arthur Sweetman appointed new Ontario Research Chair in Health Human Resources
- CLSRN awarded new research contracts with HRSDC

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CLSRN 4th Annual Conference: Quebec City, May 27th, 2010

The CLSRN held its 4th Annual Conference at le Petit Séminaire de Québec in Québec City on May 27, 2010. The conference dovetailed with the annual meetings of the Canadian Economics Association (May 28-30, 2010).

The keynote speaker at this year's conference was Henry Farber (Princeton University).

This year's conference featured the following sessions, and presenters:

Training

1. Retraining following job displacement: does it pay, and how common is it?
Presenter: Marc Frenette (Co-authors: Richard Upward & Peter Wright)
2. Did a training levy really increase training levels in Quebec?
Presenter: Benoit Dostie (Co-author: Rajshri Jayaraman)

Incentives

1. Multitasking at Work: Theory and Evidence from a Service Establishment.
Presenter: Sacha Kapoor

2. Responding to Performance-Based Pay: The Impact of Accountability
Presenter: Hugh Macartney

Immigration

1. Immigrants and the Dynamics of High Wage Jobs: Evidence from the Canadian Labour Force Survey.
Presenter: Mikal Skuterud (Co-author: Mingcui Su)
2. Visible Minority Status, Immigrant Status, Gender and Earnings in Canada: a Cohort Analysis.
Presenter: Christopher Worswick (Co-author: Ted McDonald)

Experiments

1. Estimating Treatment Effects in the Presence of Non-Market Interactions and Psychological Biases in Education Experiments
Presenter: Weili Ding (Co-author: Steven Lehrer)

2. Experimental Estimates of the Impact of Labour Market Activities on Volunteering and Health.
Presenter: Steve Lehrer (Co-author: Adnan Khan)

Education

1. The Determinants of Mismatch Between Students and Colleges.
Presenter: Jeffrey Smith (Co-author: Eleanor Dillon)
2. Why Do Women Leave Science and Engineering?
Presenter: Jennifer Hunt

Keynote Address: Job Displacement Henry Fabrer

For more information about the 4th Annual CLSRN Conference, please visit the Conference website at: www.clsrn.econ.ubc.ca/4thAnnualConference



CLSRN 4th Annual Conference participants listening to the keynote address by Henry Farber (Princeton)

The CLSRN is now on Twitter!

The CLSRN is now on Twitter! To better facilitate communications with the CLSRN membership, in addition to our regular mailouts, we are also going to be posting new announcements such as Working Paper Releases, Labour Market Matters releases and other announcements on our Twitter feed. Please feel free to follow us at: www.twitter.com/CLSRN



Dr. Thomas Zwick was the keynote speaker for the CLSRN's Workshop on Apprenticeship

CLSRN Apprenticeship Program Concludes Successfully in Vancouver, January 2010

The CLSRN Program on Apprenticeship was launched in Spring 2009 with the support of Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC) to promote evidence-based policy decision-making in Canada. The coordinators of this research program are Jennifer Hunt (McGill University) and Michael Smith (McGill University).

The Program concluded successfully at the CLSRN/HRSDC Joint Workshop on Apprenticeship in Vancouver, BC: January 22 - 23, 2010.

The CLSRN is pleased to have commissioned the following projects on Apprenticeship:

- Patrick Coe: "An Analysis of Apprenticeship Completion Rates in Canada"
- Benoit Dostie: "The Determinants of Low (and Slow) Completions in the Canadian Apprenticeship System"
- Torben Drewes and Daniel Boothby: "Returns to Apprenticeship in Canada"
- Morley Gunderson and Harry Krashinsky: "Returns to Apprenticeship: Analysis Based on the 2006 Census"
- John Meredith: "The Intensity of Workplace Training in Apprenticeable Occupations"
- James Ted McDonald and Christopher Worswick: "Incidence, Occupational Outcomes and Returns to Apprenticeship Training in Canada: the Role of Family Background and Immigrant Status"
- Richard Mueller and Christine Laporte: "The Persistence Behaviour of Registered Apprentices: Why do People Quit, Complete

Programs or Change Programs?"

Please look for these papers to be released shortly in the [CLSRN Working Paper Series](#).

The workshop featured keynote addresses by international expert Thomas Zwick of the Ludwig-Maximilians University (Munich, Germany) and the Centre for European Economic Research, and Robert Crocker, Professor Emeritus at Memorial University and principal of the Atlantic Evaluation and Research Consultants. Professor Zwick presented his paper: "Why Do Firms Train Apprentices? The Net Cost Puzzle Reconsidered" and Professor Crocker lectured on "The National Apprenticeship Survey Research Advisory Panel Research Initiative".



CLSRN Apprenticeship Workshop participants listening to a presentation of new research findings on the topic of apprenticeship.



Dr. Richard Mueller was a presenter at the Apprenticeship Workshop. His paper "The Persistence Behaviour of Registered Apprentices" with Christine Laporte was recently released in the CLSRN Working Paper Series. Other papers from the Apprenticeship workshop are expected to be released in the CLSRN Working Paper Series soon.

5th Annual CLSRN Conference to be held in Conjunction with the SOLE Conference in Vancouver: Spring 2011

The CLSRN is pleased to announce that its 5th Annual Conference will be held in conjunction with the 2011 Society of Labor Economists (SOLE) Meetings in Vancouver in April 2011.

The Society of Labor Economists (SOLE) was founded in 1996 to promote the study of labour economics and to make more significant the contribution of labour economics and labour economists. The *Journal of Labor Economics* is the official journal of the Society. The CLSRN is pleased to hold its conference conjunction with the 2011 SOLE Meetings.

More details regarding the 5th Annual CLSRN Conference will be released in the coming months.



The 5th Annual CLSRN Conference will dovetail with the Society of Labor Economist (SOLE) Meetings in Vancouver—April 2011.

Photo: Tomas Hellberg

Arthur Sweetman Appointed Ontario Research Chair in Health Human Resources

The appointment of CLSRN Affiliate Arthur Sweetman as Ontario Research Chair in Health Human Resources – a position funded by an endowment from the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care as part of the province’s health human resources strategy (Health Force Ontario) – has been deemed a “New Era” in health policy by McMaster University Dean of Social Sciences – Charlotte Yates.

“There exists at McMaster a large and dedicated group of health policy and labour economics researchers. This chair joins a hub of expertise in this field and will find many experts with whom Arthur can collaborate,” says Yates. “But what makes this appointment exciting is that it signals a new era in which government is recognizing that universities are places of relevant knowledge and expertise that have the sophisticated level of research needed to shape policy development.”

“I’m thrilled that Arthur Sweetman has agreed to come on board to develop the evidence that will help us improve the health human resources planning and strengthen patient care across this province” said Deb Matthews, Ontario Minister of Health and Long-Term Care.

“With health care accounting for almost 50 per cent of the province’s budget,” adds Bill Scarth, chair of McMaster’s Department of Economics, “considerable skill is needed to make the system more efficient without hurting patient care during the coming period of deficit reduction. Arthur has the ability to bring policy and rigorous empirical study under one umbrella.”

This Chair was awarded to McMaster University by the Council of Ontario Universities through the Ontario Research Chairs Selection Panel. Dr. Sweetman will join the University July 1, 2010.

Dr. Sweetman is a professor in the School of Policy Studies at Queen’s University, and is cross-appointed in the Department of Economics, and in the Department of Community Health and Epidemiology. Dr. Sweetman holds a Doctorate in Economics from McMaster University. Prior to studying economics full-time he worked in Hamilton as an engineer and he has a Bachelor in Engineering with a minor in computer science from McGill University, where he received the British Association Medal for Great Distinction upon graduation. His research interests focus primarily on empirical economic issues related to labour market, social and health policy. Recent research topics include health policy, education, immigration, poverty, employment insurance, program evaluation and microfinance. He has edited a number of books, and published articles in a variety of collected volumes, and refereed journals including the *Canadian Journal of Economics*, *Journal of Labor Economics*, *Journal of Human Resources*, *Economica*, *Research in Labor Economics*, *World Development*, *Review of Economic Dynamics*, *Journal of Population Economics*, and *Industrial and Labor Relations Review*.

*With reporting from McMaster University: <http://dailynews.mcmaster.ca/story.cfm?id=6630>

CLSRN Study Garners Widespread National and International Interest

A CLSRN study by Giovanni Gallipoli (UBC) and Laura Turner (UBC and University of Toronto) entitled “*Household Responses to Individual Shocks: Disability and Labour Supply*” (CLSRN Working Paper no. 23), which was featured in the December 2009 issue of *Labour Market Matters*, garnered international interest at the end of 2009 and beginning of 2010, with the study being featured in outlets such as the [CBC](#),

the [Vancouver Sun](#), the [Montreal Gazette](#), the [Ottawa Citizen](#), [Science Daily](#), and United Press International.

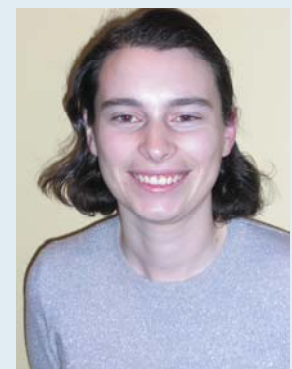
Gallipoli and Turner found that couples are better able to cope with health shocks than singles and found that in marriages, “main-earners” (typically husbands) tend to transfer income and compensate “second-



CLSRN Project Leader Dr. Arthur Sweetman will join McMaster University in July 1, 2010

“I’m thrilled that Arthur Sweetman has agreed to come on board to develop the evidence that will help us improve the health human resources planning and strengthen patient care across this province”

-- Deb Matthews, Ontario Minister of Health and Long-term Care



Laura Turner
(University of Toronto)



The Canadian Labour Market and Skills Researcher Network (CLSRN)

University of British Columbia
997-1873 East Mall
Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z1
Website: www.clsrn.econ.ubc.ca
Twitter: www.twitter.com/CLSRN

Contacts:

Katherine Meredith, CLSRN Network Co-ordinator: clsrn@interchange.ubc.ca
Vivian Tran, CLSRN Knowledge Transfer Officer: vivtran@interchange.ubc.ca

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 three years ago as a multipartite partnership between academic researchers, the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) and Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC).



Giovanni Gallipoli
(University of British Columbia)

CLSRN Study Gathers Widespread National and International Interest... (con't)

earners" (typically wives). The second-earners, in turn, provide conditional time and care in periods of need (such as illness and disability of main-earner).

The insurance the second-earner provides to the main-earner in the marital contract serves as an important mechanism to help smooth out household income in periods of health and disability shocks to the main-earner; and as a way to support the future earning potential of the main-earner

The mainstream success of the Gallipoli and Turner study is an indication of how relevant labour market research is to the broader public. Labour market research touches on many different social and economic aspects of life.

The CLSRN congratulates Dr. Gallipoli and Dr. Turner on the success of their studies and looks forward to promoting more labour market research to expanded audiences.

CLSRN Awarded New Research Contracts with HRSDC

The CLSRN is pleased to announce that it has been awarded new research contracts with Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC). HRSDC has long been a significant supporter and partner of CLSRN research programs, and the CLSRN pleased to have its relationship with HRSDC continue.

The new research contracts are in the areas of: Adult Education and Learning, and Retirement respectively. The CLSRN has established a strategic research partnership with the Social Research and Demonstration Corporation (SRDC), with SRDC taking the lead on the contract, to work on the Adult Education and Learning program which will be led by CLSRN affiliate Dr. Arthur Sweetman together with Dr. Karen Myers from SRDC. The Retirement research program will be led by CLSRN affiliates Dr. Kevin Milligan and Dr. Tammy Schirle.

More information will be made available on the website shortly.



Tammy Schirle
(Wilfrid Laurier University)