



Canadian Labour Market and Skills Research Network (CLSRN) Newsletter

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

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 1

SPRING/SUMMER 2014

CLSRN 8th Annual Conference, 29 May 2014, Vancouver

Upcoming Events:

- Conference: The Middle Class - Pressure Points and Policy, 18-20 August, Kingston

New Appointments:

- Thomas Lemieux (UBC) awarded [Bank of Canada Fellowship](#)
- David Green and Craig Riddell (both of UBC) appointed as IRPP fellows

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

George Borjas of Harvard University delivered the keynote lecture: *High Skill Immigration: Costs and Benefits*

This year's conference featured the following presentations:

Giovanni Gallipoli (University of British Columbia) & Brant Abbott (Yale University) *Technology and Intergenerational Mobility: Theory and Evidence*

Hugo Jales (University of British Columbia) *Estimating the Effects of Minimum Wage on a Developing Country: a Density Discontinuity Design Approach*

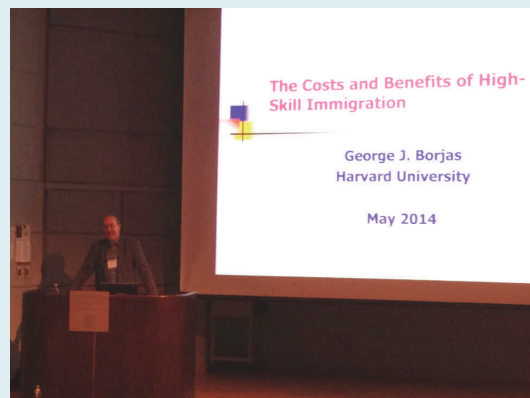
Andrew McGee (Simon Fraser University), Peter McGee, & Jessica Pan (National University of Singapore) *Competitiveness and the Gender Wage Gap*

Steven Lehrer, Vincent Pohl (Queen's University), & Kevin Song (University of British Columbia) *Reinvestigating how Welfare Reform Influences Labour Supply*

Derek Messacar (University of Toronto) *How do Workplace Pensions Affect Private Saving? Evidence from Canadian Tax Records*

David Gyarmati & Jean-Pierre Voyer (Social Research and Demonstration Corporation) *Establishing the Business Case for Workplace Essential Skills Training: UPSKILL a Pan-Canadian Demonstration Project*

Gueorgui Kambourov (University of Toronto), Iouri Manovskii (University of Pennsylvania), & Miana Plesca (University of Guelph) *Occupational Mobility and the Returns to Training*



George Borjas (Harvard University) gives the keynote lecture at the CLSRN 8th Annual Conference, May 2014

Natalia Kyui (Bank of Canada) & Véronique Simonnet (Paris School of Economics) *Education, Professional Choice and Labour Market Outcomes: Influence of Preferences, Parental Background and Labour Market Tightness*

Andrew Clarke (University of Melbourne) & Mikal Skuterud (University of Waterloo) *Immigrant Skill Selection and Utilization: a Comparative Analysis of Australia, Canada, and the United States*

Haimin Zhang (University of British Columbia) *Immigration and Crime: Evidence from Canada*

Alicia Adserá (Princeton University) & Ana Ferrer (University of Waterloo) *The Effect of Linguistic Proximity on the Occupational Assimilation of Immigrants*

The Program Committee for this year's conference were: Arthur Sweetman, McMaster University (Chair of Program Committee); Kelly Foley, University of Saskatchewan; Ted McDonald, University of New Brunswick; Annette Ryan, Human Resources and Skills Development Canada; Tammy Schirle, Wilfrid Laurier University

The CLSRN would like to thank all its affiliates, program leaders and research directors for the many years of research-generation and mobilization.

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The Middle Class: Pressure Points and Public Policies, August 18 – 20, 2014

QUEEN'S International INSTITUTE on SOCIAL POLICY

The Queen's International Institute on Social Policy (QIISP) will seek to answer the following questions at its conference on "The Middle Class: Pressure Points and Public Policies":

What are the critical stresses facing middle income Canadians? Can we ensure equal life chances in the 21st century? What are the sources of resilience for individuals and families? Do we have a public policy tool kit that is fit for contemporary purposes?

Queen's International Institute on Social Policy (QIISP) examines the pressures on the middle class in Canada and other Western economies. Pressure points have merged at various stages of the life cycle. Many youth are struggling to find a solid footing in the new labour market. Young adults are delaying forming families. Displaced long-term older workers experience persistent income losses. And many middle-income workers are facing problems building adequate retirement incomes. QIISP 2014 assess the impacts on income, opportunity, and resilience, and explores the robustness of current public policies in the areas of income, labour markets, education, and retirement income.

The annual QIISP, established in 1995, brings together senior policy-makers and leading researchers from Canada and around the world to review recent research findings and to discuss major directions in social policy.

This program will be of interest to both researchers and practitioners interested in social policy. Details can be found at:

<http://www.queensu.ca/sps/events/conferencesandworkshops/qiisp/2014.html>

IRPP-CLSRN Program on Inequality cumulates with a tremendously successful conference 24-25 February 2014, in Ottawa

Income inequality has been at the forefront of public debate in Canada for quite some time and, according to recent evidence, it continues to rise. Yet there remains much to be learned about the rapidly changing labour market and earnings dynamics underlying this trend, as well as how these trends may evolve in the future. To determine which policy approaches would be most effective in counteracting growing inequality while promoting economic growth, we need to better understand the forces at play.

The IRPP-CLSRN conference on Inequality in Canada was held as part of an ongoing joint research initiative by the IRPP and the CLSRN to provide evidence on the causes and effects of growing income inequality in Canada, assess past and present policies and propose directions for the future. It brought together leading researchers in the field with policy-makers and other stakeholders to inform and contribute to the debate.

The conference featured the following presentations:

Top incomes and inequality

Chair: Gordon Thiessen (former governor of the Bank of Canada) [[Audio](#)]
Thomas Lemieux and Craig Riddell (University of British Columbia) [[Audio](#)] [[PowerPoint](#)]
Discussants:
Michael Veall (McMaster University) [[Audio](#)] [[PowerPoint](#)]
Armine Yalnizyan (Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives) [[Audio](#)] [[PowerPoint](#)]

The role of skills and education

Chair: Richard Van Loon (Carleton University) [[Audio](#)]
Kelly Foley (University of Saskatchewan) and David Green (University of British Columbia) [[Audio](#)] [[PowerPoint](#)]
Discussants:
René Morissette (Statistics Canada) [[Audio](#)]
Chris Robinson (University of Western Ontario) [[Audio](#)] [[PowerPoint](#)]

The role of unions

Chair: Anil Verma (University of Toronto) [[Audio](#)]
Tammy Schirle (Wilfrid Laurier University) [[Audio](#)] [[PowerPoint](#)]
Discussants:
Andrew Jackson (Broadbent Institute) [[Audio](#)]



David Autor (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) gives the keynote address at the IRPP-CLSRN conference on Inequality in Canada, February 2014, Ottawa



CLSRN Director Craig Riddell gives a few remarks at the conclusion of the IRPP-CLSRN Conference on Inequality in Canada

CLSRN/IRPP Research Program on Inequality in Canada (con't)

Craig Riddell (University of British Columbia) [[Audio](#)]

The role of immigration

Chair: France St-Hilaire (Institute for Research on Public Policy) [[Audio](#)]

Feng Hou (Statistics Canada) [[Audio](#)] [[PowerPoint](#)]

Christopher Worswick (Carleton University) [[Audio](#)] [[PowerPoint](#)]

Discussants:

Charles Beach (Queen's University) [[Audio](#)]

David Manicom (Citizenship and Immigration Canada) [[Audio](#)]

Poverty Dynamics among vulnerable groups

Chair: John Stapleton (Metcalf Foundation) [[Audio](#)]

Tony Fang (Monash University) [[Audio](#)] [[PowerPoint](#)]

Discussants:

Krishna Pendakur (Simon Fraser University) [[Audio](#)] [[PowerPoint](#)]

Sherri Torjman (Caledon Institute of Social Policy) [[Audio](#)]

The role of taxes and transfers

Chair: Frank Vermaeten (Employment and Social Development Canada) [[Audio](#)]

Andrew Heisz (Statistics Canada) [[Audio](#)] [[PowerPoint](#)]

Michael Veall (McMaster University) [[Audio](#)] [[PowerPoint](#)]

Kevin Milligan (University of British Columbia) [[Audio](#)]

[[PowerPoint](#)]

Discussants:

Jonathan Rhys Kesselman (Simon Fraser University) [[Audio](#)]

[[PowerPoint](#)]

John Lester (University of Calgary) [[Audio](#)] [[PowerPoint](#)]

The future of income security in Canada

Chair: Annette Ryan (Employment and Social Development Canada) [[Audio](#)]

Miles Corak (University of Ottawa and Russell Sage Foundation) [[Audio](#)] [[PowerPoint](#)]

Guy Lacroix (Université Laval) [[Audio](#)] [[PowerPoint](#)]

Discussants:

Pierre Fortin (Université du Québec à Montréal) [[Audio](#)]

Stephen Jones (McMaster University) [[Audio](#)]

Keynote address

“Will the Workplace of the Future Have Any Workers?”

David Autor (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) [[Audio](#)] [[PowerPoint](#)]

Driving forces, outcomes and policy

Bruce Wallace (*Policy Options*, Institute for Research on Public Policy) [[Audio](#)]

John Myles (University of Toronto) [[Audio](#)] [[PowerPoint](#)]

Commentator:

David Green (University of British Columbia) [[Audio](#)]

Closing panel

Craig Alexander (TD Bank Group) [[Audio](#)]

Margaret Biggs (Queen's University) [[Audio](#)]

Miles Corak (University of Ottawa and Russell Sage Foundation) [[Audio](#)]

The conference was well-attended by participants from academia, government, the private-sector and the media.

The CLSRN thanks the IRPP for its partnership in developing this timely and important research project, as well as the generous financial sponsorship of the Toronto-Dominion Bank.

Multi-Disciplinary Dimension of the CLSRN: Keith Banting and John Myles

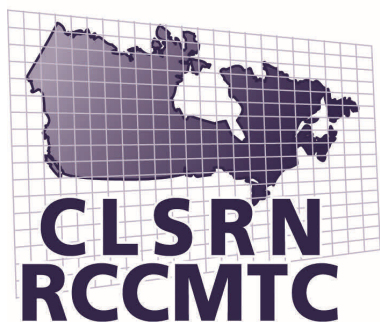
While much of the CLSRN membership and research has come from the field of economics, the CLSRN has always emphasized the multidisciplinary element of the network – attracting top academics from other social science disciplines such as political science and sociology. Two key members of the CLSRN membership include Keith Banting (Queen's University) and John Myles (University of Toronto) who are both experts in their respective fields of Political Science (Banting) and Sociology (Myles). Both contributed research to the CLSRN-IRPP Inequality in Canada program, and have recently co-edited a book on the topic of Inequality: [Inequality and the Fading of Redistributive Politics](#)

Keith G. Banting:

Keith Banting is the Queen's Research Chair in Public Policy and a professor in the [School of Policy Studies](#) and the Department of Political Studies. His research interests focus on public policy in Canada and other contemporary democracies. He has had a long-standing interest in the politics of social policy, and has recently extended this research to include ethnic diversity, immigration and multiculturalism. He is the author or editor of twenty books, as well as numerous articles and book chapters. His publications have been translated in seven languages, and he has received a number of important awards. In 2004, he was appointed as a member of the Order of Canada. In 2012, he was elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, was awarded an honorary doctorate by Stockholm University, and received a Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal.



Keith Banting
(Queen's University)



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Thomas Lemieux: Fellow of the Bank of Canada

The CLSRN is pleased to note that Thomas Lemieux - a research leader with the CLSRN, was appointed as a Fellow with the Bank of Canada in May 2014. Governor of the Bank of Canada, Steven Poloz notes that Dr. Lemieux is "a truly creative researcher and a world leader in the study of labour markets and wage inequality"



Thomas Lemieux
(UBC)

The Bank of Canada's Fellowship Program is designed to encourage leading-edge research and the development of expertise in Canada in a number of areas critical to the Bank's mandate: macroeconomics, monetary economics, international finance, financial markets and institutions, financial stability and regulation, labour economics, and economic growth.

CLSRN is funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC)

Keith Banting and John Myles (con't)

Professor Banting has played a variety of leadership roles during his career. At Queen's, he has been an associate dean of Graduate Studies and Research (1989-92) and Director of the School of Policy Studies (1992-2003). He was appointed to the governing Council of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (1986-1992), and for the last two years was Vice President of the Council. He also served as President of the Canadian Political Science Association (2009-2010). He is currently a member of the Scientific Advisory Committee of the Royal Society of Canada, as well as a member of the editorial board of several international journals and the board of directors of research institutes in Canada and abroad.

John Myles:



John Myles
(University of Toronto)

John Myles is emeritus professor of sociology and now a Senior Fellow in the School of Public Policy and Governance, University of Toronto. Until 2011, he was Canada Research Chair in the Social Foundations of Public Policy.

He has written widely on the comparative politics of the welfare state and on topics related to income inequality and poverty in Canada. His most recent book, *Income Inequality and the Fading Politics of Redistribution* (UBC Press 2013) is co-edited with Keith Banting.

Professor Myles is the recipient of the 1991 Distinguished Scholar Award from the American Sociology Association, Section on Aging, the 1995 Innis Award for best book in Canadian social sciences, and is an elected fellow of the Royal Society of Canada. In 2012, he was awarded an honorary doctorate by the University of Leuven (Belgium) for his contributions to old age security policy. In 2013, he received the Canadian Sociology Association's award for Outstanding Contribution to the Discipline of Sociology in Canada.

Craig Riddell and David Green Appointed as Research Fellows of the IRPP

The CLSRN congratulates professors David Green and CLSRN Director Craig Riddell on their appointments in February 2014 as research fellows of the Institute for Research on Public Policy (IRPP). Research fellows contribute to the IRPP's programs by providing advice and counsel on strategic research directions.

Both foremost labour economists, Dr. Green and Dr. Riddell worked closely with the IRPP leadership on co-directing the IRPP-CLSRN research initiative on the causes and policy implications of growing income inequality in Canada, which culminated in February 2014 in the very successful *Inequality in Canada Conference* in Ottawa. Dr. Green and Dr. Riddell bring a wealth of experience and expertise on Canadian labour issues to the IRPP.



Craig Riddell
(University of British Columbia)



David Green
(University of British Columbia)