

CILNews

Newsletter of the Canadian International Labour Network



CILN Mid-Term Review

1999 was CILN's fourth year of operation. It was a year of active research by faculty research associates, the postdoctoral fellow associated with CILN, and graduate student fellowship holders, encompassing a broad range of topics within the overall theme of labour market institutions and outcomes. It was also a year of significant changes for CILN.

First, CILN's principal investigator (p.i.) since its inception, Peter Kuhn, left his position at McMaster University to take up a permanent post in the Department of Economics at the University of California, Santa Barbara. He was replaced as p.i. by Stephen Jones, Professor of Economics at McMaster, and a member of CILN's Steering Committee since the outset. Jones has been active in directing CILN's research

program in Labour Market Institutions and Unemployment since 1996 and will continue in this capacity while assuming the p.i. duties. Kuhn will continue as part of the CILN team, maintaining his positions as director of CILN's research program in Labour Market Institutions and Wages and Job Quality and as a CILN Research Associate.

Second, Martin Browning, also a Steering Committee member since the outset, now divides his professional time between McMaster University and the University of Copenhagen, Denmark. In Copenhagen, he is affiliated with the Institute of Economics. This international linkage is an important addition to CILN's network, and promises to forge stronger ties with potential research collaborators in Denmark. At the same time, this position means that Browning is less actively involved in the everyday management of CILN and his position on the Steering Committee has been taken by Martin Dooley, Professor of Economics at McMaster, and an active member of CILN's research group on Labour Market Institutions and Family Welfare.

Third, as a consequence of some re-evaluation and re-

assessment when the change of p.i. took place in mid-year, and following discussions with the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council—the principal funding agency for CILN—it has been decided to extend the current horizon for CILN to calendar year 2002. While CILN was originally conceived with a five year mandate, this two year extension of the horizon will permit continued research activity and support well in to the new millennium. One concrete commitment to this new horizon is that CILN has recently appointed a further Postdoctoral Fellow, following in the footsteps of Kelly Bedard and Isaac Rischall. The new Postdoc, Louise Grogan, comes from the Tinbergen Institute in Amsterdam, having also studied at Louvain (Belgium) and the London School of Economics. She will join CILN this fall.

Finally, plans are currently well underway for the Third Major CILN Conference, to be held this fall (September 24 & 25, 2000) in Burlington, Ontario. Past CILN Conferences have been very successful in bringing together an international set of researchers working on

related topics, and we expect to continue this tradition in September. I look forward to seeing many of you there.

Stephen R G Jones

CILN Third Major Conference

Plans are well underway for CILN's third major conference to be held September 24 & 25, 2000 in Burlington, Ontario. Confirmed papers include:

Mark Stewart (Warwick)
The Inter-Related Dynamics of Unemployment and Low Pay

Stephen Jones (CILN/McMaster)*
Craig Riddell (CILN/UBC)
Labour Market Dynamics and Marginal Attachment

Chris Worswick (Carleton University)
James Ted MacDonald (University of Tasmania)
Earnings and Employment Probabilities of Men by Education and Birth Cohort, 1982-96: Evidence for the United States, Canada and Australia

Paul Beaudry (UBC)
David Green (CILN/UBC)
Explaining Wage Inequality Patterns in Germany and the US: The Role of Physical and Human Capital

Miles Corak (CILN/Statistics Canada & Carleton)*
Bjorn Gustafsson (Goteborg & IZA Bonn)

Torun Osterberg (Goteborg)
Intergenerational Influences on the Receipt of Unemployment Insurance in Canada and Sweden

Thomas F Crossley (CILN/York/ANU)*
Bruce Chapman (CILN/ANU)
Taejong Kim (York & National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies, Japan)
Credit Constraints and Retraining by the Jobless

Ging Wong (CILN/HRDC)
Job Search and the Evaluation of Labour Market Information

Heather Antecol (CILN/Illinois State University)
Deborah Cobb-Clark (ANU)
Stephen Trejo (University of Texas)
Immigration Policy and the Skills of Immigrants to Australia, Canada, and the United States

John Kennan (CILN/University of Wisconsin)
James Walker (University of Wisconsin)
Geographical Wage Differentials, Welfare Benefits and Migration

John E Roemer et al (University of California, Davis) *
To What Extent Do Fiscal Regimes Equalize Opportunities For Income Acquisition Among Citizens?

Susan E Mayer (University of Chicago)*
Changes in the Degree of Intergenerational Income Mobility Through Time

Anders Björklund (Stockholm University) *
Katarina Richardsson (Stockholm University)
How Adopted Children Fare in the Swedish Labor

Heather Antecol (CILN/Illinois State University)
Kelly Bedard (Claremont-McKenna College)
The Relative Earnings of Young Mexican, Black and White Women

Michael Baker (CILN/University of Toronto)
Nicole Fortin (UBC)
Comparable Worth Comes to the Private Sector: The Case of Ontario

Gillian Hamilton (University of Toronto)
Aloysius Siow (University of Toronto)
Class, Gender and Marriage

Peter Kuhn (CILN/University of California, Santa Barbara)
Catherine Weinberger (University of California, Santa Barbara)
Leadership Skills and Wages

Thomas Lemieux (CILN/UBC)
Nominal Wage Rigidity and Unemployment

Karsten Albæk (CILN/Copenhagen) et al
Dimensions of the Wage-Unemployment Relationship in the Nordic Countries: Wage Flexibility without Wage Curves

Louise Grogan
(CILN/McMaster)*
Audra Bowlus (UWO)
*Equilibrium Job Search and
Gender Wage Differentials*
[* confirmed presenter]

Conference program updates,
and on-line registration details
are available on the CILN web
site,
<http://labour.ciln.mcmaster.ca/conference/index.html>

CILN Fellow Wins Federal Award

For Susan Johnson, the challenge of consolidating a year's worth of work on her PhD into three posters and a five-minute presentation was an exciting, while extremely frustrating, task. It turned out to be worthwhile, however.

Johnson was selected by the Canadian International Labour Network (CILN) to represent McMaster at the inaugural McConnell Awards for Excellence in Public Communication of Research, sponsored by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), in Ottawa in November. CILN is a collaborative research effort between SSHRC and several Canadian universities, including McMaster, focusing on the labour market.

Nineteen graduate students from across Canada were asked to pare their projects down in order to make them comprehensible to a diverse panel of judges. Presenting her

work on the impact of union recognition procedures, Johnson captured second place and a prize of \$3,000.

Her work explains that, in Canada, unions gain recognition in two ways: mandatory votes involving prospective union employees or card-checking, whereby unions gain signed cards of support. As late as 1976, every province utilized card checking. Today, close to 60 per cent of the labour force is covered by votes. That's a significant shift, and Johnson has concluded that votes reduce the success of union formations by up to 13 per cent.

The McConnell awards, however, didn't allow her the opportunity to explore the topic extensively. SSHRC hopes to encourage researchers in the social sciences and humanities to share the results of their research with the public in a concise, meaningful, and accessible way.

"They wanted you to present research to a very different audience and in very different ways," she says. "The idea was to make it so everyone could understand -- journalists, politicians, everyone."
(Article, from The Courier, McMaster University)

Johnson has recently accepted a tenure track position at the Department of Economics, Wilfrid Laurier University.

New Post Doctoral Fellow at CILN

Louise Grogan will be starting a two year post doctoral fellowship at CILN. Louise is currently completing her PhD at the University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands and already compiled several publications.

She began her studies at the Lester B. Pearson United World College of the Pacific Bilingual (French / English) International Baccalaureate Diploma. Then she proceeded to the London School of Economics and Political Science to obtain her B.Sc.(Econ) with emphasis on Economics, International Trade and Development. She completed her Masters of Economics at Université Catholique de Louvain (with Distinction). Her M.A. thesis: "Household Bargaining and Family Resource Allocation Problems"

Previously she has held a number of visiting researcher positions including Russian European Center for Economic Policy (RECEP), Moscow, University of Western Ontario, Canada, CEPS/INSTEAD, Luxembourg, and at the Institute for Socio-Economic and Population Issues, Moscow.

Her academic publications include:

- Tinbergen Institute Discussion Paper, "Worker Flows in Russia"
- CEPR Discussion Paper, forthcoming in the Journal of Population Economics. "The Duration of Unemployment"

In Russia". (with Gerard van den Berg, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam).

- Tinbergen Institute Discussion Paper, "Wage Dispersion in Russia"

Other academic papers include:

- "Equilibrium Job Search and Gender Wage Differentials in the U.K.", (with Audra Bowlus, University of Western Ontario)
- "Comparing Returns to Human Capital in Hungary, Russia, and the Ukraine"
- "Occupational Choice and Gender Wage Differentials: An application of the Roy Model"

Seminar series

CILN holds a regular seminar series and occasional public lectures at McMaster. Copies of some papers presented are available by request. In addition, CILN hosts short-term visitors engaged in research related to CILN themes.

- October 27, 1999
Tom Crossley
(CILN/ANU/York)
What Cross Sectional Data Tell Us About Benefit Adequacy
- October 29, 1999
Alexandra Minicozzi
(University of Texas-Austin)
(Joint Department/CILN seminar)
Nonparametric Analysis of Intergenerational Income Mobility for Daughters

- November 19, 1999
Guy Lacroix
(Laval University)
Multi-state, Multi-episode Transition Models of Welfare Participation in Quebec

- November 22, 1999
Robert Fairlie
(University of California-Santa Cruz)
Explaining Ethnic, Racial, and Immigrant Differences in Private School Attendance

- December 8, 1999
Susan Johnson
(CILN/McMaster)
Legal Versus 'Economic' Factors in the Growth and Decline of Unions: A Stock-Flow Analysis of Canada and the US

- December 14, 1999
Martin Dooley
(CILN/McMaster)
Does Mother (or Father) Know Best? An Assessment of Parent/Child Agreement in the National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth NLSCY

- February 16, 2000
Isaac Rischall
(CILN/McMaster)
Who Studies in High School?

- February 21, 2000
Louise Grogan
(Tinbergen Institute, Amsterdam)
Worker Flows in Russia

- March 15, 2000
Mikal Skuterud
(CILN/McMaster)
The Impact of Sunday Shopping Deregulation on

Employment and Hours of Work in the Retail Industry: Evidence from Canada

- March 29, 2000
Allen Zeesman
(Human Resources Development Canada)
Social Exclusion: The Changing Nature of Poverty in Canada

- April 12, 2000
Stephen Jones
(CILN/McMaster)
Unemployment and Labour Force Attachment: New Results for Canada 1997-1999

- April 14, 2000
Robert Shimer
(Princeton & NBER)
The Impact of Young Workers on the Aggregate Labor Markets

- April 28, 2000
Caroline M. Hoxby
(Harvard & NBER)
Would School Choice Change the Teaching Profession?

Coordinates

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