

A CELEBRATION OF STATISTICS CANADA AND BETTER DECISION MAKING THROUGH DATA

March 30-31, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

Day 1, March 30

The Victoria Room, The National Hotel
(formerly the Delta Ottawa), 361 Queen St., Ottawa

8:00-8:30

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION
CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

8:30-8:45

Session 1

What This Conference Is About

Chair: **Joseph Doucet**, Alberta School of Business,
University of Alberta

8:45-9:45

Session 2

Discover Statistics Canada, Discover Canada

Chair: **Lars Osberg**, Department of Economics,
Dalhousie University

Environmental Data

"A Celebration of Statistics Canada's Environmental
Data Initiatives"

Nancy Olewiler, School of Public Policy, Simon
Fraser University

Demographic Data

"Demographic Challenges in Canada: Informing New
Brunswick's Response"

Michael Haan, Tier 2 Canada Research Chair in
Population and Social Policy, Departments of
Economics and Sociology, University of New
Brunswick (Fredericton)

Data for Assessing Canada's Economy

"Canadian TFP Growth and the Contribution of
Changes in Real Export and Import Prices to Real
Income Growth"

W. Erwin Diewert, Department of Economics,
University of British Columbia

Emily Yu, Foreign Affairs and International Trade
Canada

Jobs Data

"Job Creation, Job Losing and Job Starting in
Canada"

Stephen Gordon, Laval University

9:45-10:05

COFFEE BREAK

10:05-11:05

Session 3

Toward Wider Use of Official Statistics Data

Chair: **Frances R. Woolley**, Department of
Economics, Carleton University

Educators

"The Perspective of a Long Time College and
University Teacher of Basic Statistics"

Philip Davidson, University of Alberta, Alberta
School of Business and Grant MacEwan University

Students

"The Perspective of a Canadian Grad Student and
Statistics Instructor"

Afra Mirza, Department of Economics, Queen's
University

The Canadian Business Community

John Grant, author of *A Handbook of Economic
Indicators*, a book written to help non-economists to
use the commonly reported economic indicators
effectively, and Chief Economist at Wood Gundy.

The Press

"Technical Change and the Evolving Nature of
Democracy: Statistics and the Media"

Geneviève A. Bonin, Department of Communication,
University of Ottawa

11:05-11:50

Session 4

Giving Thanks

Master of Ceremonies: **Michael Veall**, Department of Economics, McMaster University and President of the Canadian Economics Association

Canada's Citizen Statistics Awards Presentations

Kevin Lang, Department of Economics, Boston University and a founding CERF Board Member

Brief remarks by the recipients, the Alberta School of Business Discover Statistics Canada Team:

Stephen Archibald, Eric Howg, Keith Kowalsky, Cara Noble, Lucas Novak, Binh Minh Pham, Kyle Phong, Bobby Rao, Justin Rash, Desmond Salisbury, Joe Yu, Valentino Wong, Guangyun Wu, Sherry Zhang, and Wenqi Zhao, who are all current students or recent graduates of the Alberta School of Business, University of Alberta

A Tribute to Statistics Canada

Presented by **Joseph Doucet**, Alberta School of Business, University of Alberta to Wayne Smith, Chief Statistician of Canada in thanks to the employees of Statistics Canada nationwide

Chief Statistician's Remarks -- **Wayne Smith**

11:55-12:55

LUNCH

Champlain Room (across from the Victoria Room)

1:00-2:00

Session 5

Housing and Productivity Policy Questions

Chair: **Paul Schreyer**, Deputy Chief Statistician, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

"Housing and the Financial Crisis"

Christopher J. Mayer, Columbia Business School and Co-Director of the Richard Paul Richman Center for Business, Law, and Public Policy at Columbia University

"Why Didn't Canada's Housing Market Go Bust?"

James MacGee, Department of Economics, University of Western Ontario

"What Works about Canada's Economy"

Alice O. Nakamura, Alberta School of Business, University of Alberta

Lu Zhang, Alberta School of Business, University of Alberta

2:00-3:00

Session 6

Understanding Change

Chair: Annette Ryan, Chief Economist and Director General, Economic Research and Policy Analysis Branch, Industry Canada

"The Revised System of Environmental-Economic Accounts (SEEA)"

Paul Schreyer, Deputy Chief Statistician at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

"Renewable Energy and Data Management - How the application of GIS and remote sensing can build institutional capacity"

Kirby Calvert, Department of Geography, Queen's University

Warren Mabee, Queen's University School of Policy Studies, Director of Queen's Institute for Energy and Environmental Policy

"The Demand for Dairy Products and the Aging of the Population"

Jean-Germain Nteti, Department of Agri-food Economics and Consumer Sciences, Laval University

"Overweight and Obesity in Canada:

An Econometric Analysis of Cycle 2.2 of the Canadian Community Health Survey"

Mike Edwards and Weiqiu Yu, Department of Economics University of New Brunswick (Fredericton)

3:00-3:20

COFFEE BREAK

3:20-5:10

Session 7

A Panel on Jobs and Wages

Chair: **Ging Wong**, School of Policy Studies, Queen's University

"Occupational Specificity of Human Capital"

Gueorgui Kambourov, Department of Economics, University of Toronto

Iouri Manovskii, Department of Economics, University of Pennsylvania

"Lost in Transition: The Costs and Consequences of Sectoral Labour Adjustment"

Stephen Tapp, Department of Economics, Queen's University

“The Responsiveness of Industry Wages to Low-frequency Shocks in Canada: Differences between Movers and Stayers”

David Gray, Department of Economics, University of Ottawa

“What Do We Know about Temporary Help and Contracting Out?”

Susan Houseman, W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research

“Factors Affecting Variability in Farm and Off-Farm Income”

Kenneth Poon, Department of Food, Agricultural and Resource Economics (FARE)

Alfons Weersink, Agricultural and Resource Economics, University of Guelph

“Labour Market Performance of Immigrants in Smaller Regions of Western Countries: Some Evidence from Atlantic Canada”

Ather Akbari, Sobey School of Business, Saint Mary's University

“Unemployment and Subjective Well-Being: Evidence from Data”

John Helliwell, Department of Economics, University of British Columbia

Haifang Huang, Department of Economics, University of Alberta

5:10-5:30

Session 8

Lessons Learned

Chair: **Bruno Larue**, Université Laval, Titulaire de la Chaire de Recherche du Canada

“The Place of Citizen Statistics in a Free Market Democracy”

Alice O. Nakamura, Alberta School of Business, University of Alberta

Ging Wong, Centre for Studies on Democracy and Diversity, Queen's University

Day 1 Wrap-Up

Joseph Doucet, Dean, Alberta School of Business, University of Alberta

5:30-6:30

RECEPTION

Champlain Room (across from the Victoria Room)

6:30-9:00

DINNER

Champlain Room (across from the Victoria Room)

Day 2, March 31

Bank of Canada, East Tower, Level B1 (enter via the East Tower, corner of Bank and Sparks Streets)

8:00-8:45

SECURITY PROCEDURES
CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

8:45-9:45

Session 9

Topics in Productivity Measurement I

Chair: **Someshwar Rao**, Institute for Research on Public Policy (IRPP)

“Offshoring Bias and Productivity”

Susan N. Houseman, W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research

“The Effect of Exchange Rate Movements on Heterogeneous Plants: A Quantile Regression Analysis”

Ben Tomlin, Bank of Canada

Loretta Fung, Department of Economics, National Tsing Hua University

“The impact of policy on productivity: the case of Canada's supply-managed dairy industry”

Bruno Larue, Université Laval, Titulaire de la Chaire de Recherche du Canada

“Are Small Producers Driving the Canada-U.S. Labour Productivity Gap? Recent Evidence from Manufacturing”

Jianmin Tang, Industry Canada

9:45-10:00

COFFEE BREAK

10:00-11:00

Session 10

Topics in Productivity Measurement II

Chair: **Kimberly Zieschang**, International Monetary Fund

“Translog Production/Cost Functions – A Comparison of Post-1996 to Classic 1980s Results”
Michael J. Harper, Associate Commissioner for Productivity and Technology, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (2006-2011)

“Technical and Environmental Efficiencies and Best Management Practices in Agriculture”

Lota D. Tamini, Université Laval, Faculté des sciences de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation

Bruno Larue, Université Laval, Titulaire de la Chaire de Recherche du Canada

“Sensitivity of Capital Stock and Multifactor Productivity Estimates to Depreciation Assumptions: A Canada-U.S. Comparison”

Jianmin Tang, Industry Canada

Someshwar Rao, Institute for Research on Public Policy (IRPP)

Min Li, Statistics Canada

12:30-1:45

CONCLUDING LUNCHEON

Master of Ceremonies: W. Erwin Diewert,
Department of Economics,
University of British Columbia

Luncheon Address

Jean Boivin, Deputy Governor, Bank of Canada

11:00-12:30

Session 11

Harnessing Data in the Service of Happiness

Remembering Joachim Frick



Chair: **Alice Nakamura**, Alberta School of Business,
University of Alberta

Keynote Address

“The Work of Joachim R. Frick on Building the Socio-Economic Knowledge Base
for Europe and People Everywhere”

Conchita D’Ambrosio, Università di Milano-Bicocca

“Beyond GDP: Measuring Economic Well-being in
Canada and the Provinces, 1981-2010”

Lars Osberg, Department of Economics, Dalhousie
University and IARIW Member

Andrew Sharpe, Centre for the Study of Living
Standards and IARIW Executive Director

“Do Child Tax Benefits Affect the Wellbeing of
Children? Evidence from Canadian Child Benefit
Expansions”

Kevin Milligan, Department of Economics,
University of British Columbia

Mark Stabile, School of Public Policy and
Governance, Rotman School of Management,
University of Toronto

“The State of World Happiness”

Chapter 2 of the *World Happiness Report*

John F. Helliwell and **Shun Wang**, Department of
Economics, University of British Columbia

The CERF Conference Program Committee

Alice Nakamura (Co-Chair), Alberta School of Business, University of Alberta

Ging Wong (Co-Chair), School of Policy Studies, Queen's University

Geneviève A. Bonin, Department of Communication, University of Ottawa

Bruno Larue, Professor and Canada Research Chair in International Agri-Food Trade, Center for Research on the Economics of Agri-food, Laval University

Gary Payne, Producer & Publisher, www.careervideos.com

Credits

Sponsored by the Canadian Employment Research Forum (CERF),¹ the Career Owl Institute,² 5 research networks funded by Agriculture and Agri-food Canada's Enabling Research for Competitive Agriculture program,³ the Department of Finance and Statistical Analysis of the University of Alberta School of Business,⁴ the University of British Columbia Department of Economics,⁵ the McMaster University Department of Economics,⁶ the University of New Brunswick (Fredericton) Department of Economics,⁷ the Queen's University School of Policy Studies,⁸ and the Atlantic Metropolis Centre⁹ and the Department of Economics of Saint Mary's University,¹⁰ with support as well from the Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC)¹¹ via research grants to Erwin Diewert and Alice Nakamura, and the W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research,¹² the International Association of Research on Income and Wealth (IARIW),¹³ and University Financial Associates LLC.¹⁴

¹ The non-profit Canadian Employment Research Forum (CERF) (<http://www.cerforum.org/index.html>), established in 1991, provides a forum for representatives from governments, universities, business, labour, and other communities to discuss issues related to employment in Canada.

² The Career Owl Institute is responsible for <http://www.careerowl.ca/>, a Canadian job site online since 1999 that is open to all, but with special features to facilitate recruiting for the highly qualified. Virtually all job sites are free for job seekers, but all employer services on this site are free as well. Alice Nakamura of the Alberta School of Business is the volunteer president and Karl Kopecky of the Department of Chemistry at the University of Alberta is the volunteer Chair of the Board of Directors. This is a non-charitable non-profit so that none of the university faculty families that contributed the start-up funding got tax-write-offs.

³ The Enabling Research for Competitive Agriculture (ERCA) program of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) (<http://www4.agr.gc.ca/AAFC-AAC/display-afficher.do?id=1281725218790&lang=eng>) aims to strengthen agricultural policy research in Canada. The program engages members of the external research community to enable and enhance policy research capacity. The ERCA program is organized around 5 research networks. Each network brings together clusters of policy researchers from academia and other research organizations to engage in collaborative, innovative, and policy-relevant research. Networks produce high quality agricultural policy research, disseminate their results, and provide training opportunities for graduate students in their areas of focus. The networks are: (1) the Structure and Performance of Agriculture and Agri-products Industry (SPAA) research network (<http://www.spaa-network.fsaa.ulaval.ca/index.php?id=12488&L=1>), (2) the Canadian Agricultural Trade Policy and Research Network (CATPRN) (<http://www.uoguelph.ca/catprn/>), (3) the Consumer and Market Demand (CMD) (<http://www.consumerdemand.rees.ualberta.ca/>), (4) Canadian Agricultural Innovation and Regulation Research Network (CAIRN) (<http://www.ag-innovation.usask.ca/>), and (5) Linking Environment and Agriculture Research Network (LEARN) (<http://www.learnnetwork.rees.ualberta.ca/>).

⁴ <http://www.business.ualberta.ca/en/Departments/FSA.aspx>

⁵ <http://www.econ.ubc.ca/>

⁶ <http://www.economics.mcmaster.ca/>

⁷ <http://www.unb.ca/fredericton/arts/departments/economics/index.html>

⁸ <http://www.queensu.ca/sps/index.html>

⁹ http://atlantic.metropolis.net/index_e.html

¹⁰ <http://www.smu.edu/dedman/academics/departments/economics>

¹¹ <http://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/home-accueil-eng.aspx>

¹² <http://www.upjohninst.org/>

¹³ <http://www.iariw.org/>

¹⁴ <http://www.ufanet.com/Company.htm>