

# CIBC Centre for Human Capital and Productivity

## Supporting Relevant Research For Sustainable Solutions

Human capital and productivity are key factors in improving and sustaining a nation's economic well-being and prosperity, as are the social policies that govern education and labour.

Recognizing the importance of understanding the intricacies surrounding this indivisible link, CIBC partnered with Western over 10 years ago to support a project on human capital and productivity. Through a subsequent gift from CIBC, this project grew to become the CIBC Centre for Human Capital and Productivity. Housed in the Department of Economics, research supported by the Centre has had great impact—promoting dialogue and an exchange of information between government and researchers, informing and influencing public opinion and helping to shape public policy and the development of private sector programs.

## Attracting Leading Economists and Researchers

The Centre supports the work of a top 10 group of international researchers specializing in human capital and productivity.

- Lance Lochner, Professor and Director, CIBC Centre for Human Capital and Productivity
- 5 researchers from the Top 100 economists in Canada
- 15 fellows and affiliates from Western's Department of Economics
- 13 PhD students

The Centre also has established collaborative ties with Western's China Research & Policy Group, Western's Brain and Mind Institute, the Canada Student Loan program, and a new SSHRC-funded Productivity Project with Industry Canada and Statistics Canada.

## Six Broad Research Themes

- Early Childhood, Primary and Secondary Schooling
- Post-secondary Education
- Productivity and Earnings
- Social Benefits of Human Capital
- Human Capital Policy
- Human Capital, Development and Growth

## Dissemination of Research

The Centre publishes several policy briefs each year on topics related to its main research themes. These briefs present key policy-related findings to a broad audience of policy makers, journalists, financial analysts and other researchers.

- 21 working papers were produced in 2011
- Over 40 journal articles published since 2006
- More than 4,000 citations since 2006

Research findings have been cited in international publications including *The Globe & Mail*, *The New York Times*, *USA Today* and *The Economist*.



“Research supported by the Centre has the potential to help shape government policy that can improve child achievement outcomes, reduce crime and income inequality, and raise worker productivity and earnings in the population.”

- Lance Lochner,  
*Professor and Director,  
CIBC Centre for Human Capital  
and Productivity*

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## Global Impact of Centre Research

### Knowledge Transfer and Collaborations

Recognized for its production of high-quality and high-impact research, the CIBC Centre for Human Capital and Productivity has played a consultative and integral role in the development of public policy and private initiatives surrounding education and labour.

### Policy

In the area of public policy, the Centre provides:

- Advice on the implementation of the Canada Student Loan Program
- A human capital stock measure for use by Statistics Canada
- Recommendations on immigration policy
- Input on the development, design and analysis of three major surveys—the Canadian Household Panel Survey (CHPS); the Berea Panel Study (BPS); and Canada Student Loan Program's Client Satisfaction Survey (CSS)

### Private Sector

The Centre provides evidence-based research that:

- Aids in the development of lending indicators used by financial institutions for loans for post-secondary education
- Influences the private financing of higher education, providing a more optimal design of lending contracts and a review of policies that regulate and impact private lending for education
- Provides insights into immigration policy and skilled labour
- Presents new ideas on firm productivity

### Impact on Western Economics

The quality of research produced by the Centre has raised the profile of the Department of Economics and is central in its mission to:

- Retain its ranking among the top 3 economics departments in Canada
- Expand international research and graduate training
- Attract further research and private funding

Laura Maniago  
Alumni & Development Officer  
Faculty of Social Science  
t. 519.661.2111 (ext. 84959) e. lmaniago@uwo.ca  
www.westernu.ca

## Leading CIBC Centre Researchers



Lance Lochner  
Professor and Director,  
CIBC Centre for Human  
Capital and Productivity  
Canada Research Chair in Human  
Capital and Productivity  
Professor, Economics

*Research Interests:*  
Labour Economics; Economics of  
Education; Economics of Crime

*Teaching Fields:*  
Labour Economics



Audra Bowlus  
CIBC Centre Fellow  
Professor and Chair, Economics

*Research Interests:*  
Applied Labour; General  
Equilibrium Search Theory &  
Estimation; Human Capital

*Teaching Fields:*  
Labour, Applied Econometrics

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## Research Themes and Focus Areas

### **Early Childhood, Primary and Secondary Schooling**

- Family Income and Child Achievement
- Borrowing Constraints, Early Family and Late Schooling Investments in Human Capital
- Teacher Labour Supply
- Effects of Educational Vouchers When There are Peer Group Effects
- Effects of Family Structure on Investment in Children
- The Effect of Grade Retention
- Charter Schools

### **Borrowing Constraints, Family Income, and Post-Secondary Financial Aid Policy**

- Borrowing Constraints, Family Income, and Post-Secondary Financial Aid Policy
- Borrowing Constraints and Early vs. Late Investments in Human Capital
- Time-Use
- Post-Secondary School Drop-Out
- Peer Effects and Social Interactions
- Contribution of Post-Secondary Education to National Human Capital Stocks
- Efficiency and Equity Effects of Higher Education Policies in General Equilibrium
- Changes in Higher Education in China
- Learning about Ability and Post-Secondary Outcomes
- The Role of Uncertainty, Preferences and Credit Constraints for College Attendance Decisions

### **Productivity and Earnings**

- The Self-Sufficiency Project: Human Capital and Search
- Returns to Schooling
- Human Capital Prices, Productivity and Growth
- Human Capital and Displaced Workers
- Human Capital, Occupation Mobility and Occupation Distance
- Immigration, Human Capital, and Public Policy
- Lifetime Labor Income Inequality Over Time and Across Countries
- Uncertainty and the Specificity of Human Capital
- Productivity Co-Movements Across Sectors
- Productivity Heterogeneity and its Effects

# CIBC Centre for Human Capital and Productivity

## Social Benefits of Human Capital

- Education and Crime
- Non-Production Benefits of Education

## Human Capital Policy

- Effective Tax and Subsidy Rates on Human Capital
- The Self-Sufficiency Project
- Borrowing Constraints, Family Income, and Post-Secondary Financial Aid Policy
- Immigration and Political Economy
- Efficiency and Equity Effects of Higher Education Policies in General Equilibrium
- Tax Policy, Human Capital, and Economic Growth

## Human Capital, Development and Growth

- Education Policy in Sub-Saharan Africa
- Tax Policy, Human Capital, and Economic Growth
- Documenting and Explaining Inequality in China
- Education and Inequality in China: The Intergenerational Dimension
- Public Spending and Private Behavior: Explaining Child Schooling in Rural China
- Asian Growth and Intersectoral Labour Transfers with Endogenous Effort
- Understanding Regional Inequality in China
- Changes in Higher Education in China

Publications, working papers, policy briefs and media references can be found at <http://economics.uwo.ca/centres/cibc>