



Invitation to Attend the CSLS Seminar Series on Living Standards

The Political Economy of Universities in Canada

Frances Woolley
4:00-5:30 PM
Wednesday, May 16, 2018
Laurier Room, Rideau Club
99 Bank Street, 15th floor
Ottawa, Ontario

(please note that the Rideau Club dress code requires men to wear a jacket)

To attend, please RSVP by May 14, 2018 to andrew.sharpe@csls.ca.

Canadian universities score high internationally, with three universities in the top 50 world-wide according to the 2018 Times Higher Education World University Rankings. They also appear to be accessible, with the enrolments rates (especially for women) high, considering the wide availability of community college programs, much more than in other developed countries.

Yet, according to Frances Woolley, universities are coming under increasing scrutiny, in Canada and elsewhere. In this presentation, Frances will first explore why universities are facing public pressure. Is it simply a question of demographics? Are there changes, either real or perceived, in the benefits generated by a university education? What is happening on the cost side? Having set out what is - or could be - going wrong in universities, Frances will then discuss approaches to tertiary education reform. She will argue that many, if not most, attempts to bring accountability to higher education can have unintended and undesirable consequences. She will then make the case for introducing managed competition through radical reform.

Frances Woolley is Professor of Economics at Carleton University, where she has taught since 1990. Her research centres on family and public policy, including modelling family-decision making. She has been Secretary-Treasurer of the Canadian Economics Association (CEA) and is currently the CEA President. She is co-editor of the Review of Economics of the Household and has served as Associate Dean of the Faculty of Public Affairs at Carleton University. She holds a BA from Simon Fraser University, an MA from Queen's University, and a Ph.D from the London School of Economics, studying under Tony Atkinson.