



Invitation to Attend the CSLS Seminar Series on Living Standards

The Future of Work and Policy Responses

Rohinton Medhora
4:00-5:30 PM
Wednesday, September 19, 2018
Karsh 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 September 17, 2018 to andrew.sharpe@csls.ca.

Driven by ever increasing computing power, the next twenty years will see a technological revolution of a massive scale. Many of the changes will be beneficial. Yet there is a significant risk that many people will be made worse off. Artificial Intelligence and robotics in particular will reshape the labour market by changing the relative contributions of different factors of production. Although specific scenarios are unknown (and unknowable), two characteristics of advanced technologies are clear. First, they will be driven by proprietary knowledge, that is intellectual property (IP). Second, this IP creation will be concentrated in a small number of countries and within these countries it will be driven by a very small number of individuals and firms. As a result income and wealth distribution will worsen.

In this seminar, CIGI President Rohinton Medhora will first provide his perspective on trends related to the future work. Second, given the challenges arising from transformational technologies, he will discuss a broad-based “reserve arsenal” of policy choices that governments may deploy to counter the negative impacts of the digital era, including responses in the areas of competition policy, tax policy, aggregate demand management, regulation and governance of new technologies and global data, public investment, education and skills training, and public security.

Rohinton Medhora is President of the Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI), assuming the position in 2012. He previously served as Vice-President, Programs at International Development Research Centre. He received a PhD in economics from the University of Toronto in 1988, where he subsequently taught for a number of years. He also holds a B.A. and M.A. in economics from the University of Toronto. His fields of expertise are monetary and trade policy, international economic relations and development economics and he has published extensively on these issues. He was recently named as a member of the Commission on Global Economic Transformation, co-chaired by Nobel economics Laureates Michael Spence and Joseph Stiglitz. He also serves on the board of the Institute for New Economic Thinking.