



## Invitation to Attend the CSLS Seminar Series on Living Standards

### **Access to Post-Secondary Education: Towards a New Paradigm**

Ross Finnie

4:00-5:30 PM  
Wednesday, November 10, 2010  
Borden 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 November 5 to [andrew.sharpe@csls.ca](mailto:andrew.sharpe@csls.ca).

Recent empirical evidence has increasingly shown that access to post-secondary (PSE) education, university in particular, is much more related to “cultural” factors than “economic” ones. This is perhaps seen most strikingly in the finding that parental education is a much stronger determinant of access to PSE than family income. The related processes are interconnected, rooted in the family, and start early. Policies intended to raise PSE participation rates overall or to level the playing field in terms of family background therefore need to go beyond the conventional policy tools relating to student financial aid and tuition fee strategies rooted in the established neoclassical models of participation in PSE. This talk will present the outline of a new paradigm for thinking about access to PSE which addresses these issues.

Ross Finnie is an Associate Professor in the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs at the University of Ottawa. His research and policy interests range across various topics in labour economics and public policy. His work on post-secondary education includes access and barriers to PSE, persistence and pathways to completion, student financial aid, the measurement of quality in PSE, and other topics. Professor Finnie is also a Visiting Fellow at Statistics Canada, a Research Fellow of the C.D. Howe Institute, the Research Director of the MESA (Measuring the Effectiveness of Student Assistance) project, and Director of the new Education Policy Research Initiative at the University of Ottawa.