



Centre for the  
Study of Living Standards  
Centre d'étude des  
niveaux de vie

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

### **The Relevance of the Economics of John Kenneth Galbraith for Understanding the Current Economic Landscape**

Richard Parker

Tuesday, May 1, 2012  
4:00-5:30 PM  
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 April 27, 2012 to [andrew.sharpe@csls.ca](mailto:andrew.sharpe@csls.ca).

From a policy perspective, one of the most influential economists in recent times has been Canadian-born John Kenneth Galbraith. His best-selling books exposed the shortcomings of a market economy and advocated an active role for the State in economic life. Has the world changed to render Galbraith's analysis of capitalism outdated, or is his critique still cogent?

In this seminar, Richard Parker, author of the definitive biography of JK Galbraith, will address the relevance the John Kenneth Galbraith for understanding the current economic landscape.

**Richard Parker** teaches in the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. An Oxford-trained economist, his career has included journalism (he co-founded the magazine **Mother Jones** and chairs the editorial board of **The Nation**); philanthropy (as executive director of two foundations he donated more than \$40 million to social-change groups); social entrepreneurship (he grew environmental group Greenpeace from 2,000 to 600,000 supporters, helped launch People for the American Way, and raised over \$250 million for some 60 non-profits), and political consulting (advising, among others, Senators Kennedy, Glenn, Cranston, and McGovern). From 2009 to 2011 he was an economic advisor to Greek Prime Minister George Papandreou.

His intellectual biography, *John Kenneth Galbraith: His Life, His Politics, His Economics*, which traces the history of 20<sup>th</sup> century economic theory and policy through the career of Harvard's most famous economist, was described by William F. Buckley as "the best biography of the century", by Sean Wilentz as "the best progressive history I've read in 15 years", and by Keynes' biographer Robert Skidelsky as "an unparalleled achievement."