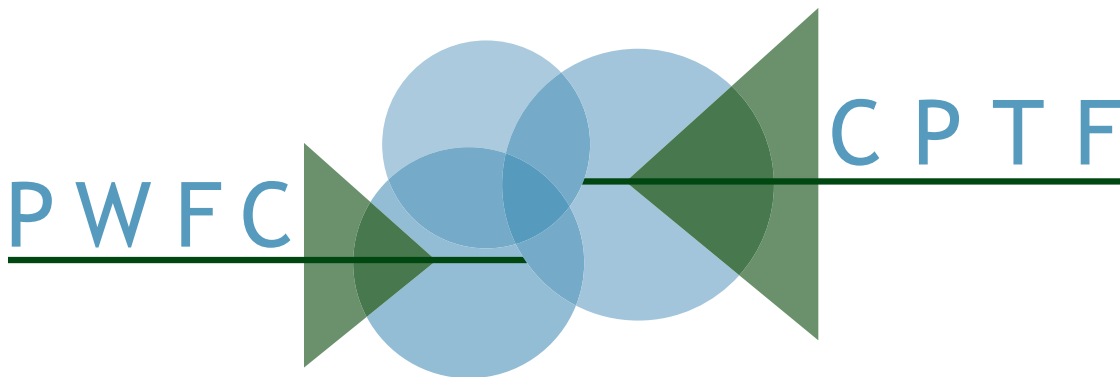




People • Partnerships • Knowledge

Population, Work and Family Policy Research Collaboration

Pre-symposium



Seminar on Data Development and Modelling

December 12, 2007
Ottawa Congress Centre

Program

Overview

The third annual Population, Work and Family Policy Research Collaboration (PWFC) Symposium will be preceded by a full day of presentations, workshops and discussions on data development and modelling.

Analyses of population, work and family issues are informed by relevant and evolving instruments and research methods. The national data system provides foundational instruments for research, knowledge creation, and evidence-based policy development. Modelling, which also requires pertinent data, provides structured research methodologies to examine the complexity of interactions among individuals, social and economic institutions and the broader policy environment. Increased awareness and an informed discussion of data and modelling instruments help to assess their relevance and identify key gaps and potential enhancements that will benefit policy development.

The objectives of the seminar are to:

- discuss key ongoing and emerging challenges to the national data system as well as forward-looking approaches, to ensure relevance to the analysis of population, work and family issues;
- feature and discuss specific initiatives to foster data development and access; and,
- broaden awareness among the policy and research community of existing modelling instruments and discuss their relevance, limitations and potential for evidence-based policy analysis.

The various sessions will focus attention on areas such as:

- new developments for the management and relevance of the statistical and data portfolio (e.g., access, governance issues, etc.);
- the development of new surveys (e.g., Canadian Household Panel Survey);
- advances in micro-simulation models and Computable General Equilibrium models; and,
- applications of forecasting models in support of monitoring and forecasting activities.

Agenda at a Glance

Ottawa Congress Centre
December 12, 2007

8:00 – 9:00	Registration
9:00 – 9:10	Welcome Remarks (Colonel By Salon)
9:10 – 10:30	Morning Plenary (Colonel By Salon) A Socio-economic Data and Statistical System for 2017 and Beyond
10:30 – 10:45	Break
10:45 – 12:00	Concurrent Workshops <i>Workshop 1</i> (Capital Hall 3B): Strengthening the Relevance of Longitudinal Data Development for Policy-making <i>Workshop 2</i> (Capital Hall 4B): Towards an Integrated Data System: Harnessing Administrative Data
12:00 – 1:15	Lunch
1:15 – 2:30	Afternoon Plenary (Colonel By Salon) Demographic and Socio-economic Modelling: Contributions to Policy, Gaps and Future Directions
2:30 – 2:45	Break
2:45 – 4:00	Concurrent Workshops <i>Workshop 3</i> (Capital Hall 3B): Forecasting and Micro-simulation Modelling Systems: Applications to Human Resources and Social Development Policy Issues <i>Workshop 4</i> (Capital Hall 4B): The Use of Computable General Equilibrium Modelling for Policy Analysis and Applications <i>Workshop 5</i> (Capital Hall 5B): Improving the Measurement of Adult Transitions and Dynamics
4:30 – 6:00	(Capital Hall 3B) "Population Change and Lifecourse" Strategic Knowledge Cluster – Meeting of the Whole (Members only)

Detailed Program

8:00 – 9:00	Registration
9:00 – 9:10	Welcome Remarks (Colonel By Salon) Tony Dittenhoffer, Acting Senior Director, Knowledge and Data Management Directorate, Human Resources and Social Development Canada (HRSDC)
9:10 – 10:30	Morning Plenary (Colonel By Salon) <i>A Socio-economic Data and Statistical System for 2017 and Beyond</i> This plenary session provides an overview of key current and emerging challenges facing the statistical system in Canada. In order to address challenges and strengthen our data system, it offers the opportunity for experts and senior public officials to share their views and discuss strategic approaches in terms of access, governance, and data integration. It also enables participants to review the notion of a statistical system and how different actors or institutions contribute to it. Chair: Thomas Townsend, Executive Director, Policy Research Initiative Presenters: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frank Fedyk, Associate Assistant Deputy Minister, Strategic Policy and Research Branch, HRSDC, <i>Drivers, Challenges and Proposed Directions for HRSDC's Data Portfolio</i> • Richard Barnabé, Assistant Chief Statistician, Social, Institutions and Labour Statistics, Statistics Canada, <i>HRSDC/Statistics Canada Interaction on Data Needs</i> • Paul Bernard, University of Montréal, <i>Building a Genuine Statistical Information System for Canada: Vision and Challenges</i>
10:30 – 10:45	Break

Concurrent Workshops

Workshop 1 (Capital Hall 3B):

Strengthening the Relevance of Longitudinal Data Development for Policy-making

Given the continued interest in longitudinal analysis in enhancing the understanding of the determinants and impact of trajectories and transitions of Canadians, this session explores the accomplishments of existing data instruments with respect to the overall statistical system and its integration. It highlights the profile of individuals and families over the life course, identifies gaps and ways in which they can be filled, and explores potential data consolidation strategies. Building on international experiences, is there a need for an integrated data instrument (e.g., a household panel survey) that links education, work and income, health, disability, and family and social network issues to provide a holistic view over the long term?

Chair: Elizabeth Ruddick, Director General, Research and Evaluation Branch, Citizenship and Immigration Canada

Presenters:

- Christian Dea, Acting Director General, Knowledge and Data Management Directorate, HRSDC, *Towards a Canadian Longitudinal Survey Strategy*
- Sylvie Michaud, Director, Income Statistics Division, Statistics Canada, *The Canadian Household Panel Survey, a Bridge to Other Longitudinal Surveys?*

10:45 – 12:00

Discussant: Paul Bernard, University of Montreal

Workshop 2 (Capital Hall 4B):

Towards an Integrated Data System: Harnessing Administrative Data

Administrative data have much to contribute to enrich the statistical profile of Canadians. This workshop features discussions of opportunities for consolidating and integrating survey and/or administrative data. It also fosters discussions pertaining to the effective management of administrative data and better access. Best practices and innovative approaches by which various levels of government are capitalizing on available administrative data are of particular interest.

Chair: Nancy Lawand, Director General, Canada Pension Plan Disability Directorate, HRSDC

Presenters:

- George Jaremek, Assistant Director, Knowledge and Data Management Directorate, HRSDC, *Administrative Data for Researchers*
- Rosemary Bender, Director General, Demographic and Social Statistics Branch, Statistics Canada, *Introducing Administrative Data Files in the Research Data Centres*
- Patricia Martens, University of Manitoba, and Director, Manitoba Centre for Health Policy, *Using the “Best Practices” Repository Housed at MCHP - Learning from the Past, Planning for the Future*

Discussant: Byron Spencer, McMaster University

12:00 – 1:15	Lunch
1:15 – 2:30	<p>Afternoon Plenary</p> <p>(Colonel By Salon) <i>Demographic and Socio-economic Modelling: Contributions to Policy, Gaps and Future Directions</i></p> <p>In light of the federal government’s investments in modelling capacities, this plenary underscores key contributions of modelling to socio-economic policy analysis. Speakers will clarify key limitations and gaps in the portfolio of models available and point to directions for the future. This session also illustrates best practices across the federal government or at the institutional level with respect to applications of modelling.</p> <p>Chair: Christian Dea, Acting Director General, Knowledge and Data Management, HRSDC</p> <p>Presenters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Claude Lavoie, Assistant Chief, Research Department, Bank of Canada, <i>On the Use of Economic Models in Policy-making</i> • Byron Spencer, McMaster University, <i>On the Role of Population-based Economic Models</i> • Anil Gupta, Director, Microsimulation Modelling and Data Analysis, Applied Research and Analysis Directorate, Health Canada, <i>Microsimulation Modelling in a Health Policy Context: Challenges and Prospects</i>
2:30 – 2:45	Break

Concurrent Workshops

Workshop 3 (Capital Hall 3B)

Forecasting and Micro-simulation Modelling Systems: Applications to Human Resources and Social Development Policy Issues

This workshop highlights the use and relevance of established modelling instruments in serving policy and program needs in the area of human resources and social development. On the one hand, it features forecasting models useful in assisting policy makers and in developing Labour Market Information products (Canadian Occupational Projection System). On the other hand, presenters address applications of micro-simulation models to inform policy/program analysis. In this regard, the session will illustrate applications of micro-simulation models such as (i) LifePaths, in monitoring well-being from a dynamic and longitudinal perspective across key dimensions and in identifying pressures faced by Canadians; and (ii) Dynacan, in conducting simulations for public pension policy. Ongoing challenges consist of data gaps and efforts to maintain or enhance the relevance of those instruments for policy and program purposes, amidst an evolving context.

Chair: Charles Beach, Queen's University

Presenters:

- Gilles Bérubé, Director, Labour Market and Skills Forecasting and Analysis, Policy Research Directorate, HRSDC, *Labour Market Forecasting at HRSDC*
- Magalie Brochu, Analyst, and Raynald Létourneau, Assistant Director, Knowledge and Data Management Directorate, HRSDC, *Educational Attainment and Employment Trajectories*
- Eden Cloutier, Manager, Forecasting, Information and Analysis, HRSDC, *DYNACAN - CPP Policy Model: A Description*

2: 45 – 4:00

Workshop 4 (Capital Hall 4B):

The Use of Computable General Equilibrium Modelling for Policy Analysis and Applications

Computable General Equilibrium (CGE) models have long been used to examine the implications of policy changes related to the economic development of key sectors, international trade and taxation/transfers to households. This session aims to highlight applications of CGE modelling that extend to the analysis of labour market and social issues. The session points to innovative possibilities arising from linkages with micro-simulation models. The ensuing discussion would shed light on policy issues relevant to future model development.

Chair: Yazid Dissou, University of Ottawa

Presenters:

- Randall M. Wigle, Wilfrid Laurier University, *Selection, Care and Feeding of CGE Models*
- Jeff Carr, Senior Analyst, Labour Market and Skills Forecasting and Analysis, Policy Research Directorate, HRSDC, *Distributional Analysis in CGE Models*
- Thomas F. Rutherford, ETH, Zurich, *Applications of CGE Models to Analyse Environmental and Trade Issues*

Workshop 5 (Capital Hall 5B):

Improving the Measurement of Adult Transitions and Dynamics

The session explores contributions and limitations of existing Canadian instruments in measuring and tracking the dynamics and transitions experienced by adults in terms of income, learning and the labour market. What are the key gaps? How would a consolidated instrument contribute to our ability to measure and have a better understanding of the determinants of key pathways and transitions, including those pertaining to the family?

2:45 – 4:00

Chair: Barbara Glover, Director General, Labour Market Policy, HRSDC

Presenters:

- Miles Corak, University of Ottawa, *Research Design, Public Policy and the Development of Data*
- Satya Brink, Director, National Learning Policy Research, Learning Policy Directorate, HRSDC, *Learning Trajectories of Youth and Adults - What Do We Know?*
- Maryanne Webber, Director General, Labour and Household Surveys Branch, Statistics Canada, *The Future of the Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics: Some Scenarios and the Impact on Cross-Sectional Income Measurement*

Discussant: Martin Dooley, McMaster University

4:30 – 6:00

(Capital Hall 3B)

“Population Change and Lifecourse” Strategic Knowledge Cluster – Meeting of the Whole

(Members only)