

THE CIBC PROJECT ON HUMAN CAPITAL AND PRODUCTIVITY AT THE
UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO ANNOUNCES A CONFERENCE ON

HUMAN CAPITAL, PRODUCTIVITY AND THE LABOUR MARKET

October 17-19, 2003
University of Western Ontario
London, Ontario, Canada

The CIBC Project on Human Capital and Productivity invites interested researchers to submit proposals for presentation at an upcoming conference on Human Capital, Productivity and the Labour Market to be held October 17-19, 2003 at the Spenser Hall Conference Centre at the University of Western Ontario.

This conference will be the first in a series sponsored by the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce (CIBC) to further understanding of productivity differences across countries, especially as they relate to human capital and labour market issues. The Human Capital and Productivity Project at the University of Western Ontario currently pays special attention to human capital and labour market related productivity differences between Canada and the United States, but the conference aims to consider a broad range of theoretical and empirical research not limited to specific countries. Details of the current themes of the research being carried out at the University of Western Ontario can be found at the project's web site at <http://www.ssc.uwo.ca/economics/centres/cibc/>

The conference will focus on four broad themes:

1. The Role of Educational Institutions in Producing Human Capital.

Educational institutions at various levels are major sources of human capital production. Understanding the roles played by different types of institutions and their relative importance in producing a country's human capital stock will help shape appropriate national education policy as well as explain international differences in human capital stocks.

2. The Efficient Use of Human Capital - the Role of the Labour Market.

A given national stock of human capital may result in different levels of well being according to the efficiency with which the labour market works in terms of allocating this capital. Research on the effects of labour market features,

including institutions and policies, can help to explain divergence in standard of living across countries with similar human capital stocks.

3. Human Capital and Entrepreneurship.

Human capital may be used in the form of hired inputs - wage earners - or in a form of entrepreneurship - self-employed. Research on the links between the human capital of the self-employed and innovation, and on how different countries allocate human capital between wage earners and self-employed is sought to further understanding of this source of international differences.

4. Human Capital and Migration.

Many countries, including Canada, are concerned about a “brain drain” or loss of human capital, often produced with large public subsidies, to other countries. While a substantial amount of research has been done on the number of migrants, the “quality” aspects have been relatively neglected. The effect on the overall human capital stocks of various countries remains unclear.

Conference Schedule

The conference sessions will begin at 8.30 am on Saturday October 18, 2003 at Spenser Hall, adjacent to the campus of the University of Western Ontario. There will be a reception at Spenser Hall on the evening of Friday October 17 to welcome the participants. A conference Dinner will take place on the Saturday evening. The conference will continue with two final sessions on the morning of Sunday October 19, ending with a lunch at 12.45 pm.

Accommodation

Accommodation will be available for conference participants at the Conference Centre at Spenser Hall. Additional accommodation, if required, will be available at nearby hotels in London.

Call for Papers

The deadline for submissions is June 1, 2003. Submissions may be in the form of full papers or short (one to two pages) descriptions of research currently in progress. Submissions should be e-mailed in pdf format to econ-conference@uwo.ca. The final program for the conference will be announced by July 1, 2003.

The conference organizers are Chris Robinson (robinson@uwo.ca) and Audra Bowlus (abowlus@uwo.ca). The conference assistant is Paula Nopper (econ-conference@uwo.ca).

