



# Barista or Better? The Earnings of Canadian University Graduates: A Tax Linkage Approach

The Department of Economics  
Visiting Speaker: Ross Finnie

April 26, 2019 2-3:30 PM  
Arts & Admin. Bldg. Rm A1043

This event is open to the public  
[economics@mun.ca](mailto:economics@mun.ca) 864-8248

This presentation will be based on a large-scale pilot project undertaken in collaboration with Statistics Canada and 14 PSE institutions from across Canada, including Memorial University of Newfoundland and the College of the North Atlantic. In this project, the post-schooling earnings of post-secondary education (PSE) graduates were tracked by linking the institutions' administrative data on students with tax data held at Statistics Canada.

This presentation will report the findings of this project using various sets of easy-to-understand graphs to paint a detailed picture of graduates' earnings, including patterns by field of study – some of which may be surprising to many.

Professor Finnie is currently extending this work with a recently available PSE-tax data platform developed by Statistics Canada. He will discuss the potential for tracking NL students from the point of entry into PSE through to graduation and then into the labour market using different data sources potentially available. He will also touch on the possibilities of extending this general line of investigation to include students at the K-12 level, including the issue of who goes on to college and university and who does not.

Ross Finnie is a professor in the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs and Director of the Education Policy Research Initiative, UOttawa (<https://www.epri.ca/>). He was educated at Queen's University, the London School of Economics, and the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Dr. Finnie's primary research focus is post-secondary education (PSE). His research addresses access and barriers to PSE; student retention; pathways to completion; and the development of predictive models to identify students at risk of dropping out of PSE. As well, his research focuses on the implementation and evaluation of student success initiatives, which are aimed at improving student outcomes. Finally, Dr. Finnie's research analyzes the participation and experiences of under-represented and minority groups in PSE. This includes a growing body of work related to Indigenous students at all levels of schooling.

His recent work has had a strong emphasis on graduates' post-schooling outcomes using linked PSE-tax data. A large-scale pilot project released in 2017 gained widespread attention for providing new, unique, and important evidence on the earnings of PSE graduates, including patterns by field of study ([www.epri.ca/tax-linkage](http://www.epri.ca/tax-linkage)).

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