



Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia Public Lecture

The Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia, in conjunction with the Tasmanian Branch of the Economic Society of Australia and the University of Tasmania, is pleased to present the 2011 Fay Gale Lecture:

Trends and Recent Developments in Income Inequality in Australia

Denise Doiron
Associate Professor, School of Economics
Australian School of Business, University of New South Wales

The **Fay Gale Lecture** honours the late Professor Gwendoline Fay Gale AO (1932-2008), the first female President of the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia and an eminent social scientist. Every two years the Academy invites a distinguished female social scientist to present the Fay Gale Lecture.

After a decade of stable, even slightly improving income inequality, Australia suffered a sharp widening of its income distribution in the late 2000's. Although this U-turn is not unique to Australia, the change has seemed more extreme with Australia's rank in 30 OECD countries falling from 15 in 2004 to 24 in 2008 in terms of income equality. This lecture reviews these changes and the broad underlying causes. In particular, changes in income inequality are set against a robust labour market and a smoothly widening earnings distribution. The roles of women and men are discussed; in particular changes in female employment rates are related to the trends in income inequality.

Denise Doiron has MA and PhD degrees in Economics from the University of British Columbia, Canada. She has held academic appointments at the University of Western Ontario, the University of British Columbia and the University of Sydney and visiting appointments at the University of Boston, the University of Washington and the Australian National University.



Doiron has worked on a variety of topics in labour, social policy and health including: wage determination and bargaining, inequality, labour market transitions, health workforce, private health insurance, welfare policies and incentives. Her work has appeared in the leading journals in her fields. She has worked with government and other organizations to improve the collection and use of public data in relation to labour, health and social policy.

Denise won Best Paper prizes from both the Australian Economic Society and the Australian Health Economics Association. She is currently co-editor of *The Economic Record*.

Event details:

Wednesday 23 November 2011, 6pm-8pm

**Dechaineux Theatre, School of Art, University of Tasmania
(Entry off Hunter St, Sullivan's Cove)**

RSVP by 20 November

Email: UTAS.events@utas.edu.au or Phone: 6226 2521



Dr Alex Wadsley, representing the Economic Society of Australia (Tasmanian Branch), Dr Sarah Jennings, representing the University of Tasmania and Professor Rod Rhodes, representing the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia, cordially invite guests to stay for refreshments at the conclusion of the lecture.