



# European Union Centre of Excellence Lecture Series

## *Unemployment in the Great Recession: A Comparison of Germany, Canada and the United States*



**Dr. Thomas Lemieux**  
Vancouver School of Economics, UBC

**Friday January 22, 2016**  
**3:00pm - 4:30pm, BEC 363**

This lecture is co-hosted with the Dept. of Economics.

This paper investigates the potential reasons for the surprisingly different labor market performances of the United States, Canada, Germany, and several other OECD countries during and after the Great Recession of 2008-09. Unemployment rates did not change substantially in Germany, increased and remained at high levels for years in the United States, and increased moderately in Canada. More recent data also show that, unlike Germany and Canada, the U.S. unemployment rate remains above its pre-recession level. We find two main explanations for these differences: the large employment swings in the construction sector in U.S. housing markets and a conventional Okun relationship linking GDP growth to employment performance.

Dr. Thomas Lemieux is a Professor and School Director at the Vancouver School of Economics at the University of British Columbia.



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For more information, contact [eusprog@uvic.ca](mailto:eusprog@uvic.ca)