Lansdowne Lecture

The University of Victoria’s Public Lecture Series features the words and work of distinguished men and women, across a vast array of academic and research endeavours. As host of this lecture series, UVic continues its mission of enriching the human mind and heart.

Dr. John Roberts

John H. Scully Professor of Economics, Strategic Management, and International Business
Stanford Graduate School of Business

In Praise of Weak Incentives

Thursday, 20 January, 7:00 p.m.
Harry Hickman Building, Room 105

John Roberts is a leading economist on business strategy and organization. He is the author of many scholarly articles and two books. His 2004 book, The Modern Firm: Organizational Design for Performance and Growth, was named the best business book of the year by The Economist.

In this lecture, Roberts discusses when performance incentives within organizations should be strong, and, more crucially, when they should be muted. Management consultants and scholars have called for applying stronger, market-like incentives within firms for more than two decades, and incentives are much stronger today than in the past. However, too often these are strong incentives to behave badly. Such bad incentives were crucial to the financial crisis.

Presented by the Department of Economics

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