

For web site of Canadian Population Society, under membership and CPS Award

Citation for Professor Céline Le Bourdais, recipient of the 2013 Canadian Population Society Award

It is such a pleasure to recognize the outstanding contribution of Céline Le Bourdais. It is also an easy task because I had such good material with which to work, not only the 41 page cv, but the five page nomination by her colleagues at McGill, Shelley Clarke and Amélie Quesnel-Vallée, and also the support letters from Andrew Cherlin, Frances Goldscheider, Susan McDaniel and Byron Spencer.

Céline Le Bourdais is Professor of Sociology at McGill University, and Canada Research Chair in Social Statistics and Family Change, member of the Royal Society of Canada and member of the Statistics Canada National Statistical Council.

Let me start with the part of Professor Le Bourdais' contribution that I know best, that of institutional development. She was co-applicant with Paul Bernard, for the Canadian Foundation for Innovation grant that got the Statistics Canada Research Data Centres started in the late 1990s and early 2000s.

She was the founding Academic Director of the CIQSS, Centre interuniversitaire québécois de statistiques sociales, the Quebec RDC, a unique RDC based in Montreal, now with branches at four other Quebec locations. CIQSS is also unique in housing not only Statistics Canada data, but also data from the Institut de la Statistique du Québec.

Those of us who have been involved in the administration of a second CFI, to renew the RDCs in the current decade, can only stand in admiration at how smoothly this first CFI was administered, under Professor Le Bourdais' direction. Of course she had the help of Jean Poirier. That is another of Celine's qualities, she can engage the assistance of first rate people.

Céline Le Bourdais has an MSc in 1979 from Université de Montréal and a PhD in 1984 from Brown University. From 1982 to 2004 she was at Institut National de Recherche Scientifique - Urbanisation, that became INRS Urbanisation, Culture et Société, including four years as Centre Director. Since 2004 she has been at McGill as CRC, and she is just now undertaking a three year Chair of Sociology at McGill. For much of this time, she also has been holding an adjunct appointment at Université de Montréal, and in 1998-2003 she led the Centre interuniversitaire d'études démographiques that joined INRS and UdeM. Thus Céline is associated with these three top schools of demography, not only in Quebec, but in Canada and internationally.

Not only is Professor Le Bourdais a top rate scholar in terms of institutional development and building research infrastructure, but she is clearly outstanding in all aspects of the University Professor.

Briefly, as an educator, besides her regular teaching, she has organized the CIQSS summer school, and taught herself in that capacity. This CIQSS summer school is outstanding in the country, with some 100 students and researchers per year, from the public service and academic sectors. With regard to graduate education, counting only the students since 1989, she has been involved with 7 Post-Docs, 31 MA and PhD students, and 5 undergraduate honors projects.

On the research side, the cv lists 184 publications, with 66 in a wide range of scholarly journals including international journals in demography and family studies (*Journal of Family Issues*, *Journal of Marriage and Family*, *Population Studies*, *Revue européenne de démographie*), as well as Canadian (*Canadian Studies in Population*, *Canadian Journal of Sociology*) and Quebec journals (*Cahiers québécois de démographie*, *Recherches sociographiques*).

Her research is mainly in the area of family demography, documenting the profound changes in Canadian family structure and the implications for women, men and children. The sub-areas of this research include: the significance of common law unions, life in reconstituted families, parents and children after separation, and family life before retirement. In regard to parents and children after separation, the nomination letter makes the following observation: "Employed mothers are more likely to enter into joint custody arrangements after separation and to maintain an adequate family income. It is reasonable to conclude from this that institutions that facilitate female labour force participation tend to increase fathers' involvement with the rearing of children after separation and to reduce the negative economic effects on women and children of family instability."

In her research and publication, we see Céline as very much a team player: of the last 40 academic publications in the last ten years, all are co-authored and only for six of these is she first author. Céline is very generous with her co-authorships.

Besides institutional development, education and research, Céline Le Bourdais has also been outstanding in terms of engaging the media, interacting with public sector researchers, and contributions to the development of public policy. The media has included *The Economist*, *MacLean's*, *La Presse*, *The Globe and Mail*, *Canadian Broadcasting Company* and *Radio Canada*. In terms of the development of public policy, let me just quote her contributions in the Eric v. Lola case that was before the Supreme Court this past winter. In particular, the report prepared by Le Bourdais was cited in the Supreme Court's majority decision, that Quebec common law

unions could be treated differently than marriages, in a free and democratic society where people can make choices.

On behalf of the Canadian Population Society, congratulations, Céline Le Bourdais, on receiving this much deserved career contribution award.

Roderic Beaujot, 7 June 2013