



**Christopher Pissarides** (London School of Economics)

Christopher Pissarides has been the Norman Sosnow Professor of Economics at the London School of Economics (LSE) since 1986 and Director of the Research Programme on Macroeconomics at the Centre for Economic Performance since 1999. He graduated from the University of Essex and obtained his PhD at the LSE in 1973. He taught at University of Southampton 1974-76 before heading to the LSE in 1976.

In 2005 Professor Pissarides became the first economist outside the United States to be jointly awarded the IZA Prize in Labor Economics. He is a research fellow of the Centre for Economic Policy Research (London) and the Institute for the Study of Labor (IZA, Bonn), a member of Council of the European Economic Association, the Econometric Society and a former member of Council of the Royal Economic Society. Christopher is currently an associate editor of *Economica* and on the editorial board of *Labour*.

Professor Pissarides research interests include macroeconomics and he is an expert on labour market theory and policy research. His book *Equilibrium Unemployment Theory* is a standard reference in the economics of unemployment. He has had well over fifty refereed papers published in the top economic journals, has written over twenty chapters in books, has written two books himself and co-edited another.

### **" Employment Outcomes in the Welfare State"**

The presentation will focus on the role of government policy in the explanation of employment differences across countries. Special attention will be paid to the policy differences in the "three worlds of welfare capitalism": the Anglo-Saxon countries, with low taxes and transfers; continental Europe, with higher taxes and transfers; and Scandinavia, which, in the words of Assar Lindbeck, has "nationalized the family," with large market subsidies targeted to functions traditionally done within the family. Data from five representative countries (the United States, Britain, France, Italy and Sweden) will be documented. In these countries, there are some striking differences in the allocation of time across economic activities, all of which concern service employment. Although - as one might expect - there are large differences in the size of the finance and business services sector, this is not the whole story. There are also large differences in employment in other sectors, in particular in the sectors which have close substitutes in "home production", such as childcare, looking after sick relatives and cooking and shopping. A large fraction of these differences is explained by the tax-subsidy programmes associated with the type of welfare state adopted in each country. The paper gives quantitative predictions of the impact of these policies on hours of work allocated to different market activities and home production.

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