



JAMES A. BAKER III
INSTITUTE FOR
PUBLIC POLICY
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For the Media



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BAKER INSTITUTE ABOUT

“A bridge between the world of ideas and the world of action.”

—James A. Baker, III, Honorary Chair

Since its inception in 1993, Rice University’s James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy has established itself as one of the leading nonpartisan public policy think tanks in the country.

As an integral part of Rice University, the Baker Institute has a strong track record of achievement based on the work of Rice University faculty and the institute’s endowed fellows and scholars. The institute also collaborates with experts from academia, government, the media, business, and nongovernmental and private organizations. The institute then provides the results of the research programs and studies with specific recommendations to those involved in the formulation and execution of public policy.

Located in Houston, Texas, the Baker Institute brings a unique perspective to some of the most important public policy challenges of our time. In conjunction with its more than 20 programs, the institute attracts many domestic and foreign leaders who provide their views and insights on key issues. The institute ranks 27th among U.S. think tanks and 16th among university-affiliated think tanks worldwide, according to a 2010 study by the University of Pennsylvania that assessed the estimated 6,000 think tanks in the world, including 1,816 in the United States.

The institute is located on the Rice University campus in James A. Baker III Hall. The Honorable James A. Baker, III, the 61st secretary of state and the 67th secretary of the treasury, serves as the institute’s honorary chair. The Baker Institute’s founding director, the Honorable Edward P. Djerejian, is the former U.S. ambassador to Israel and to Syria and former assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern affairs.

For further information, please visit our website at www.bakerinstitute.org.

For up-to-date commentary from our fellows, please visit the Baker Institute Blog at <http://blog.chron.com/bakerblog>.

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BAKER INSTITUTE FELLOWS

EDWARD P. DJEREJIAN

Founding Director and Janice and Robert McNair Chair in Public Policy

Expertise: U.S. foreign policy and State Department; Middle East and conflict resolution; Islam; public diplomacy

Special Instructions: Copy all correspondence to Paula Medlin at pmedlin@rice.edu.

GEORGE W.S. ABBEY

Baker Botts Senior Fellow in Space Policy

Expertise: Space; science and technology; education

SAMIH AL-ABED, PH.D.

Diana Tamari Sabbagh Fellow in Middle Eastern Studies

Expertise: Israeli–Palestinian relations; Middle East planning and development

JOE BARNES

Bonner Means Baker Fellow

Expertise: Oil and geopolitics; U.S. foreign policy and oil; U.S. Middle East policy and oil

DOUGLAS BRINKLEY, PH.D.

Fellow in History

Expertise: U.S. history; international affairs; American politics

CHRISTOPHER BRONK, PH.D.

Fellow in Information Technology Policy

Expertise: Information technology policy and law; computer security; U.S.–Mexico border issues (crime, immigration, politics)

ERIKA DE LA GARZA

Program Director, Latin America Initiative

Expertise: U.S.–Latin America relations; Latin American politics

JOHN W. DIAMOND, PH.D.

Edward A. and Hermena Hancock Kelly Fellow in Public Finance

Expertise: Tax and expenditure policy; housing; distribution of wealth; education

MAHMOUD A. EL-GAMAL, PH.D.

Will Clayton Fellow in International Economics

Expertise: Islamic economics and finance; Islamic transactions law; energy economics

GARY J. HALE

Nonresident Fellow in Drug Policy

Expertise: Law enforcement/criminal justice; Mexico; intelligence

YAIR HIRSCHFELD, PH.D.

Isaac and Mildred Brochstein Fellow in Middle East Peace and Security in Honor of Yitzhak Rabin

Expertise: Israeli–Palestinian relations; Israeli–Arab peace process; theory and practice of conflict resolution and negotiations; U.S. and European policies in the Middle East

VIVIAN HO, PH.D.

James A. Baker III Institute Chair in Health Economics

Expertise: Health policy; health economics; health care reform; Medicare

AMY MYERS JAFFE

Wallace S. Wilson Fellow in Energy Studies

Expertise: Oil and global geopolitics; oil prices and markets; U.S. energy policy; general oil industry trends

MARK P. JONES, PH.D.

Fellow in Political Science

Expertise: Presidential politics; Texas politics; electoral law, governance, representation and voting; Argentine economics and politics; public policy in Latin America

NEAL F. LANE, PH.D.

Senior Fellow in Science and Technology Policy

Expertise: Science and technology policy; science and politics; federal funding of research; global warming and climate change policy

STEVEN W. LEWIS, PH.D.

C.V. Starr Transnational China Fellow

Expertise: Asian affairs; Asian energy policy and national oil companies; Asian middle class, urbanization and media studies

DAVID R. MARES, PH.D.

Baker Institute Scholar for Latin American Energy Studies

Expertise: Latin American energy politics; political economy of drug policy; defense policy; civil-military relations

ELENA M. MARKS

Baker Institute Scholar in Health Policy

Expertise: Health and environmental policy; health care for low-income and uninsured individuals

WILLIAM MARTIN, PH.D.

Harry and Hazel Chavanne Senior Fellow in Religion and Public Policy

Expertise: Religious fundamentalism; Billy Graham; drug policy (e.g., needle exchange programs)

KIRSTIN R.W. MATTHEWS, PH.D.

Fellow in Science and Technology Policy

Expertise: Stem cells; biomedical research; women in science

KENNETH B. MEDLOCK III, PH.D.

James A. Baker, III, and Susan G. Baker Fellow in Energy and Resource Economics

Expertise: Domestic and international natural gas; gasoline; North American energy; alternative energy technologies and environmental issues

DANIEL B. RODRIGUEZ

Fellow in Law and Urban Economics

Expertise: Law and urban policy; constitutional law; regulatory law and policy; judicial processes

RONALD L. SASS, PH.D.

Fellow in Global Climate Change

Expertise: Ecology and evolutionary biology; climate change; biogenic radiatively active atmospheric trace gases

JOAN NEUHAUS SCHAAN

Fellow in Homeland Security and Terrorism

Expertise: Homeland security; international terrorism; border security

ROBERT M. STEIN, PH.D.

Fellow in Urban Politics

Expertise: Urban politics; collective action among metropolitan area governments; voting behavior

BAKER INSTITUTE PROGRAMS

CONFLICT RESOLUTION

The Conflict Resolution Program is involved in the formulation of coherent policy analysis, proposals and consultations with decision-makers aimed at advancing regional conflict resolution efforts. Focus areas include Iraq and Israel/Palestinian Authority.

DRUG POLICY

The Drug Policy Program pursues research and open debate on local and national drug policies in the hope of developing policies that are pragmatic, based on common sense, driven by human rights interests, and focused on reducing the death, disease, crime and suffering associated with drug use.

ENERGY FORUM

The Energy Forum promotes the development of informed and realistic public policy choices in the energy area by educating policymakers and the public about important trends that shape the nature of global energy markets and influence the quantity and security of vital supplies needed to fuel world economic growth and prosperity.

HEALTH ECONOMICS

The Health Economics Program studies the ways in which economic incentives and government policies influence the quality and costs of health care. The program's guiding philosophy is that society can deliver high-quality medical care while controlling expenditures.

HOMELAND SECURITY AND TERRORISM

The Homeland Security and Terrorism Program provides substantive advice and counsel on terrorism and homeland security issues, with a focus on serving the Houston-Harris County region and its population by enhancing regional security.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY POLICY

The Information Technology Policy Program is aimed at investigating the impact of new technologies — particularly in the areas of computer and information science — on societal organization and governance.

INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS

The objective of the International Economics Program is to provide high-quality research on various international economics topics to support the work of policymakers by improving existing analytical tools and by providing direct policy recommendations.

KELLY DAY ENDOWMENT ON WOMEN AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST

The Kelly Day Endowment on Women and Human Rights in the Middle East aims to bring together Muslims, Christians and Jews to examine human rights issues and the role of Middle Eastern women in all sectors of society.

LATIN AMERICA INITIATIVE

The mission of the Latin America Initiative is to provide a forum that fosters a better understanding of the cultures, economies, histories and contemporary affairs of Latin America's past and present.

PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

The Baker Institute plays an active role in public diplomacy, and at the request of the U.S. administration, the institute has entered into direct consultations with senior administration officials to provide them with a strategic game plan on public diplomacy in the Muslim world.

RELIGION AND PUBLIC POLICY

The Religion and Public Policy Program aims to explore how religion and cultural factors interact with public policy issues, including education, socioeconomics, politics, conflict resolution and globalization.

ROBERT A. MOSBACHER GLOBAL ISSUES SERIES

Through events held at the Baker Institute, nationally and abroad, the Robert A. Mosbacher Global Issues Series fosters constructive public policy dialogue and academic exchanges on the role of international trade and commerce as a fundamental factor for economic and social development in emerging countries.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY

The aim of the Science and Technology Policy Program is to address a broad range of policy issues that affect scientists and their research, as well as the application of science for the public good. The program tackles discussion on topics such as increasing the role of women in science and engineering; scientific integrity in policymaking; genetic testing; and the uninsured in Texas.

SPACE POLICY

America's pre-eminent role in space is being challenged both internationally and domestically. The mission of the Space Policy Program is to enhance the understanding of the principal issues facing policymakers and to play a role in the decisions being made that will affect our national security, our leadership role in space and our ability to compete successfully with other countries in the commercial use of space.

TAX AND EXPENDITURE POLICY

The Tax and Expenditure Policy Program focuses on the effects of fundamental reform of our nation's tax system. The program goal is to provide economic analyses of tax and expenditure policy at the national, state and international levels to serve as a resource for commentary on current policy issues.

TRANSNATIONAL CHINA PROJECT

The Transnational China Project seeks to expand the study of the influence of the transnational circulation of people, technologies, commodities and ideas on contemporary culture in Chinese societies. Research is currently focused on exploring how economic globalization is changing the ways Chinese identify with and work with each other.

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