



News, Research and Events

September 2, 2021



## Where will fleeing Afghans go?

The war in Afghanistan may be over, but what of the Afghans who fled the country as the U.S. withdrew its forces? [Kelsey Norman](#), Middle East fellow and director of the Women's Rights, Human Rights and Refugees Program, describes the U.S. refugee response and recommends ways forward in [a recent brief](#).

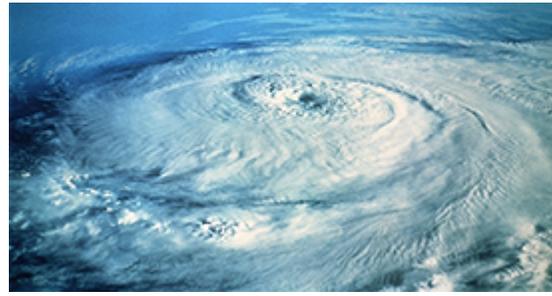
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## Latest Research



## China's climate cooperation smokescreen

China talks green, but it runs on coal, write [Center for Energy Studies](#) fellow [Gabriel Collins](#) and the Naval War College's Andrew S. Erickson in a [new paper](#). The authors propose leveraging the threat of carbon taxation to incentivize change in China and help set a path toward preserving the Earth for future generations.



## Is the Houston region prepared for a storm like Ida?

Hurricane Ida is a "prime example of a worst-case future for Houston," says Rice Faculty Scholar [Jim Blackburn](#). With three months left to go in this year's hurricane season, he discussed the Houston area's vulnerability to flooding and storm surges, and how rapidly intensifying storms due to climate change may alter evacuation plans in a new [Q&A for the Baker Institute Blog](#).

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***"Some look at gentrification as neighborhood revitalization and say that's not a bad thing, but ... it's always problematic when people are forcibly displaced from their neighborhood."***

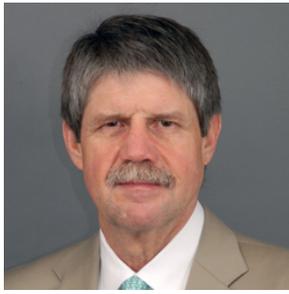
[Quianta Moore](#), Huffington Fellow in Child Health Policy, in the [Houston Chronicle](#)

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## Recognition



**Hotez honored for contributions to public health.** Health policy fellow [Peter Hotez](#) is the 2021 recipient of the American Medical Colleges' [Robert Wood Johnson Foundation David E. Rogers Award](#) for his significant service to public health and health care. Hotez, an internationally recognized virologist, is dean of the National School of Tropical Medicine at Baylor College of Medicine. Congratulations, Dr. Hotez!



**Blackburn elected to distinguished lawyers association.** Congratulations to Baker Institute Rice Faculty Scholar [Jim Blackburn](#), who was [recently named](#) a fellow for the American College of Environmental Lawyers. Individuals are selected for their distinguished experience and substantial contributions to the field of environmental law. Blackburn is also the co-director of Rice's [SSPEED Center](#).



**Toward policies that protect workers and families.** Health economics fellow [Vivian Ho](#) has [joined a team of top experts](#) to tackle pressing policy issues that arose during the pandemic. The group is working to improve the nation's social insurance infrastructure — including unemployment insurance, social security and Medicare — particularly for those hardest hit by COVID-19.

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## Pathways to immigration: Prioritizing the United States' undocumented population



Millions of undocumented immigrants have lived in the U.S. for decades and become part of America's fabric. [In a new brief](#), Center for the United States and Mexico experts [Tony Payan](#) and [Pamela L. Cruz](#) make the case for prioritizing their legalization — and show how it can be done.

## Upcoming Events

**Webinar — The Improvised War: Former President Felipe Calderón and Mexico’s War on Drugs.** Experts discuss former President Felipe Calderón’s approach to combating organized crime and Mexico’s “war on drugs,” analyzing the strategy and impact it has had to this day. **Sept. 9 | 11 a.m. CDT**

**Webinar — Improving Capital Access for Entrepreneurs from a Nonprofit Perspective.** Nonprofit executives Shashonna Duckworth and Bridget Weston each discuss her organization’s approach to meeting the financial needs of entrepreneurs and the public policy challenges facing her organization and its clients. **Sept. 16 | Noon CDT**

**Annual Energy Summit — Electrification and Decarbonization: Pathways to a New Energy Future.** Co-hosted for the fifth consecutive year by the Baker Institute [Center for Energy Studies](#) and [Baker Botts L.L.P.](#), the 2021 Annual Energy Summit explores current issues affecting global energy markets, oil and gas, electricity, renewables and the environment. The two-day virtual conference features a keynote address by former Secretary of State [James A. Baker, III](#), — the Baker Institute’s honorary chair — as well as discussions with energy experts in industry, government and policy research. **Sept. 29 – 30 | 9 a.m. CDT**

Be sure to visit our [Events page](#) in the coming weeks as more fall programming is added!

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