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RICE UNIVERSITY'S
BAKER INSTITUTE
FOR PUBLIC POLICY

News, Research and Events

February 11, 2021



Tune in to our podcasts for expert insights

With so much happening in the world today, it can be difficult to make sense of it all. For timely and accessible analysis, try our “[Policy Matters](#)” podcast. Hosted by Bonner Means Baker Fellow [Joe Barnes](#), each episode features interviews with institute fellows, Rice faculty and outside experts who draw on their research and experience to explain what’s driving an issue — the ballooning national debt, why health reforms are stalling, energy transitions, climate change and more — and how it could affect you.

Since the pandemic began, much of the podcast’s focus has been on how COVID-19 is changing every aspect of our world — from its impact on [refugees](#) and other [vulnerable populations](#) to its dramatic influence on [global oil markets](#). It also includes the latest updates on [vaccine development](#) and distribution from world-renowned vaccine expert [Peter Hotez](#), the Baker Institute fellow in disease and poverty and dean of the National School of Tropical Medicine. [Kirstin Matthews](#), a fellow in science and technology policy, also recently joined the podcast to explore the steps needed for a return to normalcy. Give the [podcast](#) a listen — or subscribe on [iTunes](#), [Stitcher](#) or a podcast streaming platform of your choice.

For in-depth analysis of issues that are central to U.S.-Mexico relations, the “[Judy Ley Allen Mexico Centered](#)” podcast is a must. Host [Enrique Quezada](#), a graduate fellow at the [Center for the U.S. and Mexico](#), interviews academics, former government officials and other experts about Mexico’s economy, politics, public health policies and much more. With thoughtful and well-researched questions, Quezada encourages his guests to go deep into complex issues and to offer actionable ways to contribute to change. [Listen here](#) or subscribe wherever you get your podcasts.

Society has created a social structure that requires two incomes to create a sustainable lifestyle. So if you’re missing an income and making basic entry-level pay, it’s still not enough for an entire household.

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



COVID-19, climate change and reaching across the aisle

The COVID-19 pandemic and the climate crisis have had (and will continue to have) enormous social, cultural, economic and health impacts for the entire world. Yet, despite the extensive toll of these crises and the vast scientific knowledge about how best to combat them, both issues have become extremely politicized in the United States. Why is this?

At a recent webinar hosted by the Baker Institute [Science and Technology Policy Program](#), [Katharine Hayhoe](#), the co-director of the Climate Center at Texas Tech University, explained that it may come down to differences in values. If the facts run contrary to an individual's values or identity, they will reject them. In order to counter this tendency, said Hayhoe, it is essential to communicate with people in a way that reflects their values and the reality of their lives.

[Click here](#) to watch the full webinar, including a Q&A session moderated by [Jordin Metz](#), a Ph.D. candidate at Rice University's Wiess School of Natural Sciences.

Upcoming Events

Webinar — Reluctant Reception: Refugees, Migration and Governance in the Middle East and North Africa. Middle East fellow [Kelsey P. Norman](#) explores her new book about refugees and governance in the Middle East and North Africa with [Abdoul Raouf Ousmane](#), a program associate with the Immigrant Health Access Project and a former refugee. **February 16 | 11:00 a.m. CST**

Webinar — America at a Tipping Point: Science and Technology Opportunities for the Biden Administration. The U.S. faces growing competition and challenges to its innovation enterprise following years of modest science investment. At this webinar, experts [John Hennessy](#) and [Norman Augustine](#) consider policies that the Biden administration can enact to strengthen science R&D. **February 17 | Noon CST**

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