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News, Research and Events

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Safe third country agreements and asylum-seekers at the U.S.-Mexico border

The Trump administration has been pushing for safe third country agreements with Mexico and Guatemala in an effort to reduce the number of asylum-seekers coming to the U.S. from Central America. Such agreements would require refugees to apply for asylum in the country they first enter, rather than where they ultimately want to settle. [Kelsey Norman](#), director of the Women's Rights, Human Rights and Refugees Program, joins our Policy Matters podcast to discuss the impact of these agreements and how the U.S. can learn important lessons from the EU. [LISTEN](#)

"The Nobel Prizes are an opportunity to celebrate science as each award is announced. Unfortunately, each year we also note the lack of diversity among the winners. Concrete policy changes are needed to ensure more diversity is reflected in the world's most visible and prestigious scientific honor."

Science and technology policy experts [Kenneth Evans](#), [Kristin R.W. Matthews](#) and [Daniel Morali](#), in the [Baker Institute Blog](#)



The U.S. response to Saudi oil attacks

On Sept. 14, Saudi Aramco's oil processing plant at Abqaiq was hit in a surprise attack, and further strikes damaged facilities at the Khurais oil field 150 miles away. The attacks on some of the world's most vital pieces of energy infrastructure prompted the largest ever oil outage in modern history. Energy fellows [Jim Krane](#) and [Mark Finley](#) note that these attacks have been accompanied by a curious lack of meaningful response from the U.S. [READ MORE](#)

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Upcoming Events

Political Reform in China. The China Studies Program hosts a panel of experts to examine the current state of reforms in China and U.S.-China relations.

Nov. 4 | 4:00 pm

Roundtable Dialogue — The 2019 Houston Election Results and Looking Ahead to the 2020 Presidential Race. At this member-exclusive event, fellow Mark P. Jones discusses the outcome of the Houston mayor's race and the prospects for next year's presidential election. **Nov. 7 | 9:30 am**

National Health Care Reform: Strategies for Slowing Cost Growth. Four leading health economists discuss how to reduce costs while improving access to high-quality health care at the Center for Health and Biosciences' seventh biennial conference on health care reform. **Nov. 8 | 8:00 am**

A Bold New Era of American Science and Technology. Kelvin K. Droegemeier, Ph.D., director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy and science advisor to President Donald Trump, discusses advances in science and his plans to promote collaboration between the government, industry and academia. **Nov. 12 | 5:30 pm**

Energy in Central Europe. The ambassadors from Poland, the Czech Republic, Hungary and Slovakia discuss their countries' current energy landscapes and prospects for future development. **Nov. 19 | 10:00 am**

Examining Mexico's Public Safety and Security Landscape. Tony Payan, director of the Center for the United States and Mexico, describes the current public safety and security environments in Mexico and evaluates the López Obrador administration's strategy to reduce violence and crime.

Nov. 20 | 8:00 am

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