



News, Research and Events

July 22, 2021



A plan to change the future of Texas' children

Advocates of early childhood development got a boost this year with the passage of the American Rescue Plan, which includes unprecedented federal funding that targets the health and well-being of children. As the money is distributed, how can we ensure it is invested in ways that have the greatest positive outcome for children, families and communities?

Quanta Moore, the Huffington Fellow in Child Health Policy, and her guests recently explored the possibilities in a conversation that ranged from innovative scholarship programs for children from low-income families to focusing on the quality of early learning initiatives. "The responsibility for the well-being and success of children doesn't just belong to the families or their schools, the responsibility belongs to all of us," said Karla Cisneros, a Houston city council member.

To learn more about the American Rescue Plan and evidence-based policies that could have a real impact on children's lives, watch the webinar [here](#).

Podcasts: Tune In



Religious behavior in the Muslim world during the pandemic

Tune in to hear Middle East fellow [A.Kadir Yildirim](#) and his co-authors discuss their recent study on the pandemic's impact on religious behavior in five Muslim-majority countries. The podcast is available at the [Alwaleed Islamic Studies Program at Harvard University](#).



Curbing unproven stem cell-based 'treatments'

Science and technology policy fellow [Kirstin Matthews](#) joined "[The Stem Cell Report](#)" podcast to discuss her research into unproven stem cell-based interventions, which could pose a potential risk to recipients. Read her [paper](#) on this issue or listen to the [podcast](#).

"The pace of disagreements between Saudi Arabia and the UAE is reaching a fever pitch [but] the disputes are better understood as a return to the pre-2015 status quo."

Energy fellow [Jim Krane](#) and Middle East fellow [Kristian Coates Ulrichsen](#) in a post for the [Baker Institute Blog](#) via [Forbes](#)

New Research



An opportunity for Israeli-Palestinian peace. Despite the frozen status of Israeli-Palestinian negotiations and the obstacles to restart them, Middle East fellow [Gilead Sher](#) writes that a U.S.-led effort could help to gradually forge a framework agreement for an Israeli-Palestinian permanent peace. Read his policy brief [here](#).



Behind the votes in the 2021 Texas Legislature.

This year's legislative session is known as the most conservative in a generation, but its ideological and partisan dynamics tell a more nuanced story. Political science fellow [Mark Jones](#) uses roll call vote data to improve our understanding of how the controversial session unfolded. Read his report [here](#).



Undocumented workers: economic potential left on the table.

What would happen if undocumented immigrants were legalized and offered the chance to participate in banking, health insurance and the housing market? In a new [paper](#), research scholar [José Iván Rodríguez-Sánchez](#) explains the positive economic effects that would result.

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