



News, Research and Events

September 20, 2021



## A busy fall ahead for Baker Institute interns, student forum members

With the fall semester under way, Rice students are actively engaged in public policy research and related activities at the Baker Institute — both virtually and in person. From the start, the Baker Institute has pursued a core mission to connect with and involve students, our next generation of leaders. “An understanding of public policy is important for achieving growth inside and outside of the classroom,” says Baker Institute [Director Ambassador Edward P. Djerejian](#). “We hope the paths of all Rice students lead to the institute, where they can stop by, listen and add their own voices to the ongoing public policy discussion.”

Read what our interns and student forum members have planned for the semester [here](#).

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## Our latest reports



### Cracking down on underreported crypto taxes

Valued at an estimated \$2 trillion, the cryptocurrency market has grown too large to avoid regulatory oversight — and is now a major contributor to a ballooning balance of unpaid federal taxes. In a [recent post for the Baker Institute Blog](#), public finance fellow [Joyce Beebe](#) explores how the IRS is improving cryptocurrency tax compliance.



### A clash of local interests, global climate goals

What does a bitter mining dispute between Poland and Czechia reveal about the hurdles communities worldwide could face as they attempt to phase out coal? Nonresident fellow [Anna Mikulska](#) and co-author Eryk Kosinski explore the unprecedented conflict and its global implications in a [new issue brief](#).

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***“The perception is very clear that the U.S. is not as committed [as it was] to the [Persian] Gulf, in the view of many in decision-making authority in the region. From the Saudi point of view, they now see Obama, Trump and Biden — three successive presidents — taking decisions that signify to some extent an abandonment.”***

[Kristian Coates Ulrichsen](#), Middle East fellow, to the [Associated Press](#)

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## Donors support research, students



**McNair Center to study small businesses in historic Houston wards.** How did small businesses in the Second and Third wards evolve in a 20-year period of economic and demographic transformation? The institute's **McNair Center for Entrepreneurship and Economic Growth** will study the question under a recently awarded \$300,000 Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation **Community-Engaged Research grant**. Understanding the quantitative effect of revitalization will offer a basis for policy proposals that support incumbent small businesses in urban areas undergoing economic transformation.



**Funding bolsters institute's Moscow student exchange program.** The Baker Institute's **Space Policy Program** recently received a \$10,000 gift from the **Association of Space Explorers** in support of our **Stafford-Leonov Student Exchange Program**. The program, now in its 10th year, emulates the international cooperation behind the International Space Station by sending students from Rice and other U.S. universities to Moscow — or students from Moscow to Houston — for a space development workshop, travel permitting.

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## The improvised war: Former President Felipe Calderón and Mexico's war on drugs



Security is arguably Mexico's most critical public policy issue, said **Center for the United States and Mexico** director **Tony Payan** at a recent webinar. [Click here](#) to learn how Mexico's war on drugs and organized crime under the administration of former President Felipe Calderón (2006–2012) has affected the country's security to this day. Nonresident scholar **Guadalupe Correa-Cabrera** and Sergio Aguayo, a research professor at El Colegio de México, joined Payan for the discussion.

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## Upcoming events

**Webinar — Science for the Public Good: Who is Benefiting?** Science experts Sheila Jasanoff and Mahmud Farooque join nonresident scholar Ana Iltis to discuss how improved public and stakeholder engagement can help scientific research outcomes more effectively benefit society as a whole. **Sept. 22 | 11:30 a.m. 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**

**Webinar — What Can and Cannot Be Done: Agreements that Frame the U.S.-Mexico Relationship.** Panelists discuss the inter-institutional agreements that frame the U.S.-Mexico relationship, their impact on public policy and how they outlive the cycles of politics. **Oct. 13 | 11 a.m. CDT**

Be sure to visit our [Events page](#) for information on our latest fall programming — and to [watch videos](#) of previous webinars and in-person events!

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## Get Involved with the Baker Institute

Become a member of the [Baker Institute Roundtable](#) and [Roundtable Young Professionals](#). Contact [our development office](#) for more information on how you can join the conversation on the relevant issues and ideas that shape our world, or text **BAKER** to **243725** to donate today!



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