



News, Research and Events

July 21, 2022



## On the road again with Baker Institute fellows and scholars

As travel restrictions ease this summer, Baker Institute experts are traveling across the U.S., Europe, the Middle East and Asia to conduct on-the-ground research, attend conferences and more. Their plans range from presentations on issues such as energy security and experimental stem cell therapies to gathering original data on migration in Morocco and the pandemic's impact in Mexico.

See our [interactive map](#) to explore how — and where — our experts are spending summer 2022.

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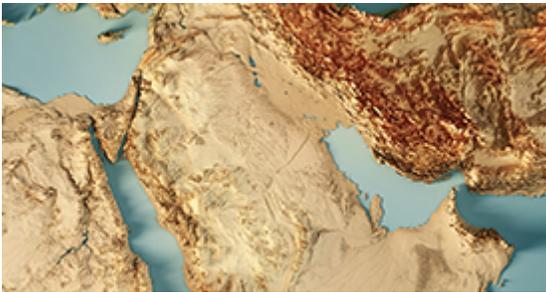
## Ambassador David M. Satterfield welcomed as director of Baker Institute



The Baker Institute began its next phase of growth and impact last week as Ambassador [David M. Satterfield](#) assumed the position of institute director. “I look forward to continuing the commitment to data-driven, nonpartisan research and policy recommendations for decision-makers in areas of critical importance to United States domestic and foreign interests,” he said. Satterfield has more than four decades of diplomatic and leadership experience, including service as ambassador to Lebanon and Turkey. Learn more about his extensive policy background [here](#).

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## Spotlight on the Middle East



### Key challenges for U.S. policy in the Middle East

How should the U.S. respond to new and ongoing challenges in the Middle East? A [recent report](#) by the fellows of the [Edward P. Djerejian Center for the Middle East](#) offers recommendations for U.S. policy in the region, as drawn from the center’s daylong [conference](#) on the region’s key issues.



### The Israeli-Palestinian impasse

A [July 2022 report](#) by fellow [Samih Al-Abid](#) explores current Palestinian-Israeli dynamics and concludes that the only real solution is a return to the two-state paradigm. Peace and security will come through mutual recognition of statehood and clearly defined and respected international borders, Al-Abid writes.

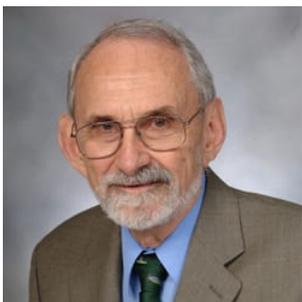
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***“A lot of this (new) legislation is focused on protecting the rights of the unborn, but we need to be equally focused on protecting the rights of women and their ability to make decisions about their health.”***

Dr. Rola El-Serag, director of the Center for Health and Biosciences,  
in the [Houston Chronicle](#)

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## New on the Baker Institute Blog



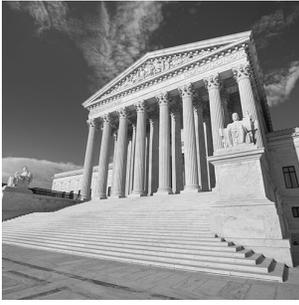
**Remembering Robert Curl.** Senior fellow [Neal Lane](#) posts a personal remembrance of his friend and colleague, Nobel laureate [Robert \(Bob\) Curl](#), in the [Baker Institute Blog](#). Curl, a legendary Rice professor and Baker Institute faculty fellow, died on July 3. “He was one of the smartest scientists and kindest persons I have ever known,” said Lane.



**The Madrid summit and the future of NATO.** If the Ukraine war has reinvigorated NATO, the alliance’s future role — and Washington’s place in it — remains very much unsettled, writes Bonner Means Baker Fellow [Joe Barnes](#). Read his latest post on the [Baker Institute Blog](#).



**The formula shortage: Economic impact and policy responses.** The baby formula shortage has left parents and policymakers scrambling for answers, writes the [McNair Center](#)’s Alexandra Bello. What role did government policy play in the shortage and what is being done to address the short- and long-term problems? Learn more at the [Baker Institute Blog](#).



**Without Roe, new complications for embryo research.** The many impacts of overturning Roe v. Wade include complications for embryo research and resulting treatments, given a lack of consistent federal standards and laws across the United States, writes the [Center for Health and Biosciences' Daniel Morali](#). Read his post on the [Baker Institute Blog](#).

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## Get involved with the Baker Institute

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