

21st Century Policy Makers

WELCOME TO 21ST CENTURY POLICY MAKERS, the first student-directed policy conference at the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs. As policy students, we believe it is important to have a forum for future policy makers to share their own research and promote dialogue on key issues. This year's conference will examine poverty issues affecting our state, our nation, and our world. This broad approach allows us to look inward, while not forgetting the global community.

In the future, we hope that this conference will continue to grow and reach other universities, bringing together policy schools and students across the country. Thank you for participating in this event. We look forward to the issues that will be raised in today's panels.

Respectfully,

21st Century Policy Makers Planning Committee

Bhupendra Pant

Jennifer Deegan

Ken Flippin

Ladi Mosadomi

Eve Richter

Joey Shaw

Andrea Winkler

March 31, 2006

8:30-9:00 am

Registration and Breakfast
Student Lounge

9:00-9:30 am

Welcome and Introduction
Bass Lecture Hall

9:30-11:30 am

Morning Breakout Sessions

Panel 1: The Federal Safety Net in the U.S.
SRH 3.106

Moderator: Pat Wong, Ph.D. (Professor, LBJ School)

"The Emergency Food and Shelter Program and the Social Safety Net"—Gretchen Wagner from Columbia University School of International and Public Affairs and the School of Social Work

"An Analysis of the Family Medical Leave Act"—Lauren Bloom from the UT Department of Sociology

"Welfare Reform and Public Perceptions of Families in Need"—Christine Shirley Sinatra from the LBJ School

"Redrawing the Line: Restoring the Federal-State Balance in the Provision of Benefits for Legal Immigrants and Refugees"—Lindsay Littlefield from the LBJ School

Panel 2: Economic Perspectives on International Poverty Issues
SRH 3.110

Moderator: Eugene Gholz, Ph.D. (Professor, LBJ School)

"Microfinance and the Knowledge Paradigm: Overcoming the Barriers to Commercial Downscaling."—Ian S. Speir from the Bush School

"Economic Policies and Agricultural Development in Uzbekistan"—Cristina Ruggiero-Mendoza from the LBJ School/Center for Eastern European Studies

"Integration or Disintegration: A Humanist Perspective"—Nancy C. Mancilla from the Clinton School

11:45 am-12:45 pm

Lunch
Student Lounge

Changes in a Politicized World

1:00 - 2:00 pm

Keynote Speaker

Bass Lecture Hall

James K. Galbraith, Ph.D.
Lloyd M. Bentsen Jr. Chair in Government/Business Relations and Professor of Government

2:30 - 4:30 pm

Afternoon Breakout Sessions

*Panel 3: Social Policies and Global Poverty
SRH 3.106*

Moderator: Robert H. Wilson, Ph.D. (Professor, LBJ School)

"Russia's Poverty-Induced Public Health Crisis"—Cristina Ruggiero-Mendoza from the LBJ School/Center for Eastern European Studies

"Poverty in Latin America: Similarities and Differences among Countries"—Flavia Leite from the LBJ School/Institute of Latin American Studies

"Did the Poorest of the Poor Gain the Most from Mexico's PROGRESA?"—Alonso Sanchez from the LBJ School/Institute of Latin American Studies

"An Evaluation of a Theatre-Based Program for Juvenile Offenders in Rio de Janeiro"—Richard O. Hanson from the LBJ School/Institute of Latin American Studies

*Panel 4: Urban and Regional Poverty Issues
SRH 3.110*

Moderator: William Spelman, Ph.D. (Professor, LBJ School)

"A Cost-Benefit Analysis of Universal Preschool in Texas"—Amanda McCutcheon and Katherine Rich from the Bush School, Texas A&M University

"Assessing the Perspectives of the Success of Economic Development Incentives"—Nina Shealey from Texas State University

"The Role of Ideology in the Formation of U.S. Housing Policy"—J. Rosie Tighe from Community & Regional Planning at UT Austin

4:30 - 5:00 pm

Awards, Conference Debriefing, and Discussion
Student Lounge

Keynote Speaker Biography

James K. Galbraith

*Lloyd M. Bentsen Jr. Chair in Government/Business Relations and
Professor of Government*

James K. Galbraith teaches economics and a variety of other subjects at the LBJ School. He holds degrees from Harvard (B.A. magna cum laude, 1974) and Yale (Ph.D. in economics, 1981). He studied economics as a Marshall Scholar at King's College, Cambridge in 1974-1975, and then served in several positions on the staff of the U.S. Congress, including Executive Director of the Joint Economic Committee. He was a guest scholar at the Brookings Institution in 1985. He directed the LBJ School's Ph.D. Program in Public Policy from 1995 to 1997, and currently directs the University of Texas Inequality Project, an informal research group based at the LBJ School.

Galbraith has co-authored two textbooks, *The Economic Problem* with the late Robert L. Heilbroner and *Macroeconomics* with William Darity, Jr. He is the author of *Balancing Acts: Technology, Finance and the American Future* (1989) and *Created Unequal: The Crisis in American Pay* (1998). His most recent book, *Inequality and Industrial Change: A Global View* (Cambridge University Press, 2001), is coedited with Maureen Berner and features contributions from six LBJ School Ph.D. students.

Galbraith maintains several outside connections, including serving as a Senior Scholar at the Levy Economics Institute and as Chair of the Board of Economists for Peace and Security. He writes a column called "Econoclast" for *Mother Jones*, and occasional commentary in many other publications, including *The Texas Observer*, *The American Prospect*, and *The Nation*. He is an occasional commentator for Public Radio International's Marketplace.
