The Frederick S. Pardee Center for the Study of the Longer-Range Future conducts interdisciplinary and policy-relevant research on a wide range of issues that contribute to long-term improvements in the human condition. Through programs of scholarship and outreach, the Pardee Center works to disseminate the collective knowledge and experience of scholars and practitioners in an effort to ensure that decisions made today lead to better outcomes tomorrow.

A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

The Pardee Center focuses on broad issues with significance for the well-being of future generations across the globe. Our interdisciplinary scholarship aims to address questions faced by decision-makers at all scales.

Our research priorities include:

The Urban Future
Studies of innovative approaches and successful models that may alleviate physical and social pressures stemming from the rapid expansion of cities, especially in the developing world.

Coupled Human and Natural Systems
Research investigating how governance, social, and economic systems are intricately connected to natural systems, and the trade-offs that confront those making resource management decisions.

Global Environmental Change
Research asking how issues such as food security, energy security, migration trends, and development policy are affected by global changes in climate, land-use, and other environmental trends.
The Pardee Center convenes an ever-expanding network of scholars from across Boston University and other academic institutions as well as practitioners and policymakers who collaborate to address today’s most challenging issues. The Task Force Program brings together experts who contribute their collective knowledge to important cross-cutting issues such as international financial regulation and the role of higher education in establishing knowledge economies in developing countries. Outputs from Pardee Task Forces have been presented and discussed at international institutions including the International Monetary Fund, the United Nations, and the World Bank.

The Center catalyzes and leads large, interdisciplinary, multi-partner proposals related to the global topics that are the focus of our work.

In addition, the Pardee Graduate Summer Fellows Program provides an opportunity for Boston University graduate students to undertake interdisciplinary research on topics that are aligned with the Center’s broad interests, such as international water resource management and public health issues in Africa. This intensive summer program trains the next generation of interdisciplinary scholars, and contributes papers to the Center’s publication series.

The Pardee Center’s scholarship is reflected in our outreach programs, targeted specifically to policymakers and other non-academic audiences as well as other interested scholars. Monthly seminars hosted at Pardee House feature Boston University faculty affiliated with the Pardee Center, or visitors from other institutions, and our annual Distinguished Lecture provides the perspectives of a prominent scholar on issues of global significance to a large public audience.

Our publications series includes policy briefs (Issues in Brief), working papers (The Pardee Papers), Task Force Reports, Conference Reports, and Research Reports. Several edited volumes on topics ranging from the future of China to economic relationships among developing countries have resulted from Pardee Center conferences.

An active website and social media outlets (@BUPardeeCenter) also connect large audiences to our publications and events.

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