Catalyzing Interdisciplinary Research

We envision a future where excellent scholarship improves the long-term human condition.
MISSION

The Frederick S. Pardee Center for the Study of the Longer-Range Future at Boston University conducts interdisciplinary research on globally important issues that affect the human condition over decades. Through programs of scholarship, outreach, and education, the Pardee Center works to improve public decision-making and policy and to train future generations of interdisciplinary scholars.

FROM THE DIRECTOR

It is my great honor to serve as Director of the Frederick S. Pardee Center for the Study of the Longer-Range Future, an interdisciplinary, solutions-oriented research center that seeks to understand the forces — whether environmental, political, economic, social, or cultural — that cause the world to unfold the way it does today and in the decades to come.

Since it was established in 2000, the Center has steadily grown into a premier university-wide research center at Boston University, becoming an active and integral part of the University’s intellectual life. With its reach across Departments and Schools, the Center is constantly expanding its network of scholars from BU and elsewhere who play leading roles in our research program, as well as our seminars, conferences, and other events. Through a program of seed grants to BU faculty teams, the Center is catalyzing collaborations in primary research that would otherwise be difficult to achieve within traditional academic boundaries. Our Graduate Summer Fellows Program that helps train the next generation of interdisciplinary scholars has earned a stellar reputation for its lasting impacts on the students who participate.

Looking forward, the Pardee Center will continue its scholarly contributions on important global issues that I hope will lead to improved public policy and decision-making, while creating unique collaborations to bring academic insights into discussions with a variety of stakeholders. While the Center’s current research priorities are clearly defined, we are prepared to augment these efforts with increased attention to new cross-cutting issues that represent major trends and global challenges in the 21st century. There is no shortage of work to be done and new knowledge to be uncovered, and I look forward to the Pardee Center’s continuing role in these efforts.

— Professor Anthony Janetos, Director
The Pardee Center catalyzes and leads interdisciplinary, multipartner research projects conducted by BU faculty and students, visiting scholars, and Post-doctoral Research Associates in five major areas of focus:

**GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE**
Understanding the risk of global changes in climate and land use, the opportunities for adapting to that risk, and the potential for reducing long-term risk by decreasing greenhouse gas emissions and demand for natural resources.

**COUPLED HUMAN AND NATURAL SYSTEMS**
Assessing the dynamic interactions between people and natural systems and highlighting the implications of trade-offs between natural resource management and economic development.

**INSTITUTIONAL AND ECONOMIC GOVERNANCE**
Exploring the evolution of the governance and policies of international institutions that finance development and guide nations’ responses to environmental challenges.

**FUTURE ENERGY AND URBAN SYSTEMS**
Understanding the intersecting trends of rapid urbanization and evolving sustainable energy systems.

**PUBLIC HEALTH IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD**
Analyzing the challenges of delivering health services and combating emerging diseases in developing countries with limited resources.

“The Pardee Center offers a unique environment on campus as a hub for fostering interdisciplinary conversations and as an incubator for collaborative projects. In taking seriously both academic rigor and policy relevance, the Pardee Center provides indispensable support for innovative research and engaged outreach on some of the most pressing issues facing the world today and in the future.”

— PROF. HENRIK SELIN, INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS FACULTY ASSOCIATE
Faculty and Post-doctoral Researchers

The Pardee Center convenes an expanding network of Faculty Research Fellows from across Boston University through seed funding for projects that address the Center’s research interests, emphasize collaborations across disciplines, and have practical implications for forward-looking policy and decision-making. Post-doctoral Associates make substantive contributions to the Center’s research agenda by supporting ongoing programs and initiating their own. Both Faculty Research Fellows and Post-doctoral Associates lead Center activities based on their research, including seminars, conferences, workshops, and publications. In addition, Pardee Center Faculty Associates are BU faculty members who support our mission through participation in the Center’s various activities and programs, and actively promote the Center’s programs to their students and colleagues.

“A 200 kW microhydro plant on the Ambangal River in Kiangan, Ifugao, Philippines, a small-scale run-of-river renewable energy project.”

“"The Pardee Center has enabled me to begin to break down traditional academic silos in my research and practice. We are training a new generation of do-ers and thinkers who often wonder why we have created barriers to solving the world’s problems. Working with engineers and social and political scientists has enlarged my toolbox for reframing and tackling these problems."

— PROF. WENDY HEIGER-BERNAYS, ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH FACULTY RESEARCH FELLOW 2016–2019

Prof. Les Kaufman, Biology, Faculty Research Fellow
“The Pardee Center provides a wonderful venue for BU students, postdocs, faculty, and staff to meet with and learn from each other and outside experts. It is a truly interdisciplinary place that trains all participants to communicate more effectively with others outside their own core disciplines to create truly productive collaborations and interactions.”

— PROF. PAMELA TEMPLER, BIOLOGY
FACULTY RESEARCH FELLOW 2015–2018

“A nitrogen monitoring station at the Arnold Arboretum, established by Faculty Research Fellows Pamela Templer and Lucy Hutyra as part of their work to expand the National Atmospheric Deposition Program (NADP) to the City of Boston.”

— PROF. JOSEPH HARRIS, SOCIOLOGY
FACULTY RESEARCH FELLOW 2015–2018

“The Pardee Center brings together scholars from different disciplines — both graduate students and faculty — to engage with and learn from one another through programs like the Faculty Research Fellows program and the Summer Fellows Program. People not only make new connections but learn different ways of seeing both their own work and the broader world through those interactions.”

— PROF. JOSEPH HARRIS, SOCIOLOGY
FACULTY RESEARCH FELLOW 2015–2018
Graduate Summer Fellows

The Graduate Summer Fellows Program provides an opportunity for Boston University doctoral and master’s students from various departments, schools, and colleges to undertake research on topics that are aligned with the Center’s broad research interests. This intensive 10-week program trains the next generation of interdisciplinary scholars in the skills needed to collaborate across disciplines and to communicate scholarly research to audiences with varied backgrounds and beyond academia. The Summer Fellows complete individual research papers by the end of the program that are considered for the Center’s publication series.

“Pardee was indispensable in forming the scholar I am today. It taught me not only that I have a passion for research and writing but also that I love the process of writing in community; being a part of a scholarly community seeking to do our best work in the world of the university and beyond.”

— STEPHANIE EDWARDS, 2010 GRADUATE SUMMER FELLOW
MA, THEOLOGY AND SOCIAL WORK

2015 Graduate Summer Fellow Sahar Abi Hassan (PhD student, Political Science) presents her research on populist politics in Latin America.

2017 Graduate Summer Fellow Ilyun Koh (PhD student, Earth & Environment) presents his research on the vulnerability of Brazilian coffee farms to climate change.
“[The Summer Fellows Program] forced me to rethink my language, my framing, and my thinking about the questions I was really asking in my work and their relevance outside my academic ‘inner circle’.”

— KIRA SULLIVAN-WILEY
2015 GRADUATE SUMMER FELLOW
PHD, EARTH AND ENVIRONMENT

“A lot of our work in my current position is focused on communicating complicated technical issues and arguments in an accessible way to a broader audience, be it funders, non-NCD specialists in the global health community, policy makers without clinical experience, or the general public. Getting a chance to do that in this program, as well as the focused time to dive into the literature in the topic of most interest to me, served as a great foundation for me as I have moved on from BUSPH.”

— MAIA OLSEN, 2013 GRADUATE SUMMER FELLOW
MPH, INTERNATIONAL HEALTH

The 2018 Graduate Summer Fellows, representing six different BU schools and colleges.
The Pardee Center’s scholarship is reflected in our events, which include seminars, workshops, conferences, and lectures that are open to the public. Monthly seminars feature Boston University faculty affiliated with the Pardee Center along with scholars from other institutions and non-academic practitioners. Our annual Distinguished Lecture offers the opportunity for a large public audience to hear the perspectives of a prominent scholar on issues of global significance. Events are typically webcast live and recorded, available to view at bu.edu/pardee.
Publications

Our publications include policy briefs (Issues in Brief), working papers (The Pardee Papers), Task Force Reports, Conference Reports, and Research Reports authored by a wide range of affiliated researchers, including Faculty Research Fellows, Post-doctoral Associates, and Graduate Summer Fellows. All publications are disseminated widely and are available to download for free at bu.edu/pardee.
ABOUT FREDERICK S. PARDEE

The Frederick S. Pardee Center for the Study of the Longer-Range Future at Boston University was established as a university-wide research center in 2000 through the generosity of Frederick S. Pardee. Mr. Pardee, a Massachusetts native, received both his bachelor’s and master’s degrees from BU, and he pursued his passion for analyzing trends for the future as a systems analyst and an economic forecaster.

In recognition of his intellectual contributions and knowledge in the area of futures research and human well-being, Boston University dedicated a historic brownstone at 67 Bay State Road as the Pardee House in the year 2000 and awarded Mr. Pardee an Honorary Doctorate Degree in 2006.

In 2013, an additional gift from Mr. Pardee created the Pardee School of Global Studies at Boston University.

Both the Pardee Center and the Pardee School incorporate Mr. Pardee’s global sensibility and his dedication to the creation of a better future for all of humanity.
“The Pardee Center became a second home for me on campus... You begin to get a sense that you’re part of something pretty special: a group of people who come from all manner of academic and professional backgrounds, but who all share an interest in the “big” questions facing humanity with an eye toward thinking about sustainable solutions over the longer-range future.”

— JONARS SPIELBERG, 2011 GRADUATE SUMMER FELLOW
MA, INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS