



SCHOLARS
STRATEGY NETWORK

Experts Available: Biden's American Jobs Plan and American Families Plan

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Dominik Doemer

With the COVID-19 relief bill behind him, Biden is moving forward with two bold proposals to reshape the American economy. The first proposal, the American Jobs Plan, would direct billions toward infrastructural improvements, including transit, green energy, and housing. Meanwhile the second proposal, the American Families Plan, includes funding for childcare, paid family and medical leave, universal pre-K, free community college, paid for with a handful of tax increases.

For journalists looking for expert commentary on the major portions of these plans, the following scholars are available:

Transit

MARY ANGELICA PAINTER

The Natural Hazards Center, University of Colorado, Boulder



Painter's research primarily centers around transportation and technology, including public transit, transportation network companies (TNCs), and transportation planning. Most of her focus has been on mobility within urban transportation systems, including light-rail systems and the urban policy process of TNC policy. Painter is an Assistant Professor of Political Science at the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

Green energy

PETER CANNAVÒ

Hamilton College



Cannavò is an environmental political theorist. His research focuses on how our conceptions of and relationships with the natural world, as well as how the civic republican tradition intersects with environmentalism and in the implications of climate change for civic virtue and democracy. Cannavò is Professor of Government and Director of Environmental Studies at Hamilton College.

MATTHEW TODD HUBER

Syracuse University



Huber's research focuses on the politics of energy and climate change, including the relationship between oil and American politics, the political economy of mineral extraction, and the industrial ecologies of agricultural fertilizers. Huber is an Associate Professor of Geography at Syracuse University.

Housing

ANTWAN JONES

George Washington University



Jones' research focuses on the residential and neighborhood context in which individuals live (such as housing instability, food deserts, and concentrated poverty) as a way to understand health disparities among marginalized populations. Jones is an Associate Professor of Sociology and Africana Studies at The George Washington University.

ELIZABETH STROM

University of South Florida



Strom's research focuses on the intersection of policy, politics and planning in US and some European cities, including downtown redevelopment, the role of arts and culture in urban development, and affordable housing/foreclosure issues. Strom is an Associate Professor of Public Affairs at the University of South Florida.

Paid family and medical leave

RANDY ALBELDA

University of Massachusetts Boston



Albelda is a labor economist whose research and teaching focuses on economic policies that affect low-income women, especially mothers. This includes family and medical leave, cash assistance and other forms of public supports, tax policies, child care, and minimum wage. Albelda is a Professor of Economics and Senior Research Associate at the Center for Social Policy at the University of Massachusetts Boston.

JENNIFER C. GREENFIELD

University of Denver



Greenfield's research explores how social insurance programs and other policies affect household economic security, especially for workers with care responsibilities. Policy topics such as paid family leave, mandatory minimum wages, and access to health insurance are a major focus of her work. She has completed commissioned policy analysis projects for the State of Colorado. Greenfield is an Associate Professor and the Associate Dean for Doctoral Education in the Graduate School of Social Work at the University of Denver.

CHRISTINE PERCHESKI

Northwestern University



Percheski's research focuses on American families and the ways family life is changing, including recent increases in unmarried parenthood and the rise of new employment patterns among mothers and fathers. Much of her work considers how changes in family life affect poverty, income inequality, and access to health insurance for children and adults. Percheski is an Associate Professor of Sociology and Institute for Policy Research Faculty Fellow at Northwestern University.

Child care

PATRICIA BOLING

Purdue University-Main Campus



Boling's work focuses on issues that straddle the public-private divide: housework, childrearing, reproductive issues, sexuality and nutrition. Her research has compared work-family support policies in four countries to explain the political dynamics of why different countries develop particular approaches to supporting working families. Boling is a Professor of Political Science at Purdue University.

JULIA R. HENLY

University of Chicago

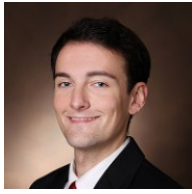


Henly's scholarship focuses on the economic and caregiving strategies of low-income families. Her ongoing funded projects investigate the effects of childcare subsidy policy reforms on caseload dynamics, the implications of the COVID-19 pandemic on childcare programs, and parental childcare decision-making in Latinx communities. Henly is a Professor in the School of Social Service Administration at the University of Chicago, where she chairs the PhD program.

Universal pre-K

F. CHRIS CURRAN

University of Florida



Curran has published widely in the area of early childhood education including work on the political antecedents of universal preschool and state-funded preschool adoption as well as work that examines early science achievement. He is a regular contributor to *The Conversation* and was formerly a middle school teacher. Curran is an Associate Professor of Educational Leadership and Policy and Director of the Education Policy Research Center at the University of Florida.

MARY KING

Portland State University



King is a labor economist, particularly focused on the public provision of high quality preschool and childcare, and other economic policy strategies that improve economic opportunities and outcomes for women, people of color and people from low-income backgrounds. With Lisa Dodson, King co-authored a recent report on [Oregon's Unmet Child Care Needs](#). She has spent the past three years working on the policy and campaign for Multnomah County's [standard-setting new universal preschool program](#). King is Professor of Economics Emerita at Portland State University, the Vice President of the Board for the Oregon Center for Public Policy and a Rhodes Scholar.

NANEIDA LAZARTE-ALCALÁ

Oklahoma State Department of Education



Lazarte-Alcalá's research areas have focused on the fields of early care and education, economic development, and poverty in developing countries, as well as regional economic development and the impact evaluation of ongoing public policy initiatives of the State of Oklahoma. She has been the principal investigator on several research projects aimed at identifying barriers and facilitators of program participation and retention, especially for most at-risk populations. Lazarte-Alcalá is a Researcher and Data Scientist of Educator Effectiveness & Policy Research for the Oklahoma State Department of Education.

KATE ZINSSER

University of Illinois at Chicago



Zinsser studies early childhood teacher preparation and teacher-child interactions that promote children's social-emotional school readiness as well as mechanisms and policies to prevent preschool expulsion. She is an Associate Professor of Community & Prevention Research in the Department of Psychology at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Free community college

LAURA W. PERNA

University of Pennsylvania



Perna's work focuses on understanding and identifying how social structures, educational practices, and public policies can promote college access and attainment, particularly for groups that continue to be underrepresented in higher education. With her research team, she has created a [publicly available searchable database](#) of free college programs, written about the reasons that free college programs could improve college enrollment, and studied the implementation of free community college programs. Perna is the James S. Riepe Professor of Education at the University of Pennsylvania.

Tax increases

CHRISTOPHER FARICY

Syracuse University



Faricy's main area of interest is in the politics of income inequality. Specifically, he examines how political parties use changes to tax policy to distribute federal money and how public opinion on tax breaks and inequality influences policymakers and public policy outcomes. Faricy is an Assistant Professor of Political Science and Public Policy at Syracuse University.