



American University Centers and Institutes

American University aims to strengthen our culture of respect and integrity, recognize the great work of our community members, and be a model for inclusion and innovation. Some centers are the initiative of a single school, while others are shared efforts.

[Accountability Research Center \(ARC\)](#)

Jonathan Fox, Director

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The Accountability Research Center (ARC) is an action-research incubator based in the School of International Service (SIS) at American University. The mission of SIS includes “waging peace.” ARC collaborates with its partners to contribute to global thinking on how to improve public accountability and build more inclusive societies.

[Alper Initiative for Washington Art](#)

John Rasmussen, Director of Art Gallery and Curator

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The Alper Initiative for Washington Art is dedicated to preserving, presenting, and creating the art history of Washington, DC through our book collection, database, events, and exhibitions.

[Antiracist Research & Policy Center](#)

Ibram Kendi, Director

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The Antiracist Research and Policy Center is housed in the College of Arts & Sciences and School of International Service at American University. AU is committed to equity and equal access and social justice. It is led by administrators and staff who value high-impact public scholarship. AU features one of the most politically active student bodies in the nation. It is undergoing an ambitious period of transition under new visionary leader, President Sylvia Burwell. AU sits in the policy capital of the world steering a legion of publicly engaged scholars who are committed to deploying their research for progressive policy change in their respective fields.

[ASEAN Studies Initiative](#)

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The Initiative will work collaboratively with the ASEAN Secretariat in Jakarta and with US government agencies, think-tanks and research institutes in Washington, as well as with Southeast Asia institutions and other ASEAN research centers in the United States and abroad.

Bridging the Gap

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Bridging the Gap promotes scholarly contributions to public debate and decision making on global challenges and U.S. foreign policy. Bridging the Gap equips professors and doctoral students with the skills they need to produce influential policy-relevant research and theoretically grounded policy work. Bridging the Gap also spearheads cutting-edge research on problems of concrete importance to governments, think tanks, international institutions, non-governmental organizations, and global firms. Within the academy, Bridging the Gap is driving changes in university culture and processes designed to incentivize public and policy engagement.

Business in the Capital

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The Kogod School of Business established its *Business in the Capital* center to provide insight on key regional issues and start productive conversations about improving the Greater Washington business climate. Kogod is committed to sharing its research and expertise with policy makers and business leaders to build the economy of the Greater Washington region.

Carmel Institute of Russian Culture and History

Anton Fedyashin, Director

The Carmel Institute builds lasting connections between Russian and American youth through musical and theater performances, Russian and Soviet film screenings, conferences, student exchanges and trips, and art exhibits. The Institute offers grants to Russian and American students to study in each other's countries.

Center for Behavioral Neuroscience

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AU's Center for Behavioral Neuroscience provides a unique interdisciplinary research and training environment that promotes excellence in the study of brain function and its manifestation in behavior. The Center strives to support neuroscience research efforts and promote collaborative interactions among neuroscientists as well as scientists from other disciplines. The Center also provides core research facilities for neuroscience research faculty and scientists from other disciplines.

Center for Congressional and Presidential Studies

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American University's Center for Congressional and Presidential Studies (CCPS) serves scholars, students, policymakers and the public by propelling actionable research, providing public education and promoting a more reasonable democratic square. Since 1979, CCPS's faculty, research fellows, executives-in-residence and students have completed hundreds of research projects, which have been broadly disseminated as books, scientific research articles, popular press articles, video documentaries and audio stories. Many of these projects have enjoyed external support, totaling over \$50 million. CCPS also publishes *Congress and the Presidency*, administers the *Campaign Management Institute* and

the *Public Affairs and Advocacy Institute*, and has hosted over 350 public symposia and conferences that bring together policymakers, politicians, researchers, journalists, and other public intellectuals to contemplate pressing political and policy issues.

Center for Environmental Filmmaking

Maggie Burnette Stogner, Executive Director

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The Center for Environmental Filmmaking is committed to producing films and new media that are essential educational and high-impact tools in the struggle to protect the environment. Its mission is to inspire a new generation of environmental stewards, filmmakers and media experts who create work that is informative, ethically sound, entertaining, and makes a positive difference.

Center for Environmental Policy

Daniel Fiorino, Director

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The purpose of the Center for Environmental Policy (CEP) at American University is to evaluate and improve the capacity for environmental governance in the United States. The concept of environmental governance refers to the ways in which institutions and groups in American society interact to anticipate, manage, and resolve issues related to the state of the natural environment.

Located within American University's School of Public Affairs in Washington, D.C., the Center for Environmental Policy (CEP) draws upon the resources of the University and the Washington area to bring varied perspectives, evidence, and solutions to bear on the nation's most pressing environmental problems.

Center for Innovation

Siri Terjesen, Contact Person

AUCI's mission is to help American University (AU) students and alumni from across campus to gain a full understanding of the real world of business and markets by confronting, embracing, and creating opportunities—with the goal of achieving the highest levels of human flourishing and self-actualization. AUCI brings together prospective student entrepreneurs, educators, and experienced entrepreneurs to develop entrepreneurial mindsets, identify opportunities, refine business models, and launch new ventures.

Center for Israel Studies (CIS)

Laura Cutler, Managing Director

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The Center for Israel Studies at American University was created to study, examine, and interpret the rich landscape of Israel as a nation and a people. The center integrates the prominence of American University faculty who have long-standing reputations in Israel with the university's expertise in the design of experiential and global education.

Center for Language Exploration, Acquisition & Research (CLEAR)

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To fulfill its mission, CLEAR's patron-focused staff are here to connect language coaches and students, ensure the positive enhancement of the language learning experience through the use of technology, and to foster an environment which emphasizes global sensitivity and values the multicultural diversity of our campus.

Center for Latin American and Latino Studies (CLALS)

Eric Hershberg, Director

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The Center for Latin American & Latino Studies (CLALS), established in January 2010, is a campus-wide initiative advancing and disseminating state-of-the-art research. Our faculty affiliates and partners are at the forefront of efforts to understand economic development, democratic governance, cultural diversity and change, peace and diplomacy, health, education and environmental well-being. CLALS generates high quality, timely analysis on these and other issues in partnership with researchers and practitioners from AU and beyond.

Center for Media & Social Impact

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The Center for Media & Social Impact (CMSI) at American University's School of Communication in Washington, D.C., is an innovation lab and research center that creates, studies and showcases media for social impact. Focusing on independent, documentary, entertainment, and public media, the Center bridges boundaries between scholars, producers and communication practitioners across media production, media impact and effects, public policy and audience engagement. The Center produces resources for the field and academic research; convenes conferences and events; and works collaboratively to understand and design media that matter.

Center for Postsecondary Readiness & Success

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American University's new Center for Postsecondary Readiness and Success (CPRS) will focus on increasing equitable and accessible pathways to postsecondary success for all students. Despite an abundance of research over the past decade on postsecondary opportunities, disparities in college access and degree attainment persist for low-income students and students of color. Increasing college enrollment rates and closing opportunity gaps, especially among new majority populations, bear direct relation to the availability of well-trained, culturally responsive, and resourced school counselors and college advisors.

Center on Health, Risk, & Society (CHRS)

Deanna Kerrigan, Director

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The Center on Health, Risk and Society partners with numerous other centers, departments and schools across American University and includes faculty and students from within the College of Arts and

Sciences, the School of International Studies, the School of Public Affairs, the School of Education and the Washington School of Law. Colleagues from George Washington University, Howard University, Georgetown University, the University of Maryland, the DC Center for AIDS Research and other academic and research institutions in the DC area are also engaged in the intellectual community that serves as the foundation for CHRS.

Critical Race, Gender, and Culture Studies Collaborative (CRGC)

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The Critical Race, Gender, and Culture Studies Collaborative (CRGC) is a vibrant and inclusive community of faculty and students that explores diverse voices, histories, and experiences through socially engaged scholarship.

Current

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Current is the nonprofit news service for and about public media in the U.S. *Current* publishes online daily and in print – 16 issues in 2016. In 2011, *Current* became an editorially independent journalistic service of the American University School of Communication, Washington, D.C. For most of the 30 years before that point, *Current* had been managed financially by WNET, operator of New York pubTV stations WNET and WLIW.

Cybersecurity Governance Center

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The Kogod Cybersecurity Governance Center (KCGC) at American University aims to promote responsible cybersecurity governance by providing organizational leaders and their designees with thoughtful, practical and well-supported guidance on the cybersecurity issues that are essential to their core stakeholder responsibilities.

First Ladies Initiative

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American University's Legacies of America's First Ladies initiative and conference series features distinguished guests - first ladies, former presidents, and first families, White House staff, scholars, authors, members of the media - who highlight the significant contributions these women make by using their platform to advocate for issues, promote change, and improve our society.

Forum for Climate Engineering Assessment

Wil Burns, Co-Executive Director

Simon Nicholson, Co-Executive Director

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The Forum for Climate Engineering Assessment's (FCEA) overarching objective is to assess the social, ethical, political, and legal implications of emerging technologies that fall under the broad rubric of climate engineering (sometimes referred to as "geoengineering" or "climate intervention"). The center

produces policy-relevant research and commentary, and work in a variety of ways ensure that the climate engineering conversation maintains a focus on issues of justice, equity, agency, and inclusion.

Game Lab

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The American University Game Lab serves as a hub for experiential education, persuasive play research, and innovative production in the fields of games for change and purposeful play. Both a degree and a Certificate program in Game Design are offered jointly by the School of Communication (SOC) and the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS). SOC also offers an MFA in Games and Interactivity, as well as a concentration on Games and Interactivity within the MFA in Film and Electronic Media. CAS offers a Game and Computational Media track with the MS in Computer Science.

Humanities Lab

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The Humanities Lab is a new research initiative in the College of Arts and Sciences at American University. Founded in 2014, the Humanities Lab aims to showcase the humanities at American University by supporting interdisciplinary and collaborative projects and scholarly activities among faculty, students, and the broader community.

Info-Metrics Institute

Amos Golan, Director

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The Institute was established in August 2009. The Institute meets a growing need to connect researchers across disciplines who are working on issues related to information processing and inference with limited information, including the fundamental problem of how to connect the observed and unobserved quantities in a coherent way.

Institute for Innovation in Education (IIE)

Danielle Sodani, Director

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It is the mission of the Institute for Innovation in Education to bring together a wide-ranging set of methodological and analytical approaches to the study of educational policies and practices broadly. Cross-disciplinary research into the study of education and learning is necessitated by the complex contexts and characteristics of learners, schools, and communities. The institute researchers dedicate themselves to collaborative investigation bridging multiple fields, bringing together the expertise of a broad set of organizations interested in this nebulous concept of education. We envision an entity in which the individuals involved in the institute dedicate their efforts to scientific understanding of the processes, policies and practices of education.

Institute on Disability and Public Policy (IDPP)

Derrick Cogburn, Director

The IDPP prepares transformative disability policy leaders and serve as a collaborative “Think Tank” on disability policy for the ASEAN region through an unparalleled network of 20 leading universities and 4 outreach partners, with founding and sustained support from The Nippon Foundation. The IDPP is based at American University in Washington, DC.

Internet Governance Lab

Derrick Cogburn, Faculty Director

Laura DeNardis, Faculty Director

Nanette Levinson, Faculty Director

The Internet Governance Lab conducts evidence-based research, engages in policy formulation, and offers world-class teaching in Internet architecture and governance. Its mission is to study the implications of Internet governance approaches for society and the global economy, to advance the marketplace of ideas with original research, to inform policymakers and the public, and to train the next generation of thought leaders in this area.

Investigative Reporting Workshop

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The Investigative Reporting Workshop, based at the School of Communication at American University, was founded in 2008 by longtime investigative journalist Chuck Lewis, who continues to report and write for the site and national publications. The Investigative Reporting Workshop publishes in-depth stories about government and corporate accountability, ranging widely from the environment and health to national security and the economy.

Justice Programs Office

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The Justice Programs Office (JPO), a center in the School of Public Affairs at American University, uses translational research, innovative solutions, and collaboration to advance an equitable justice system that promotes human dignity and respect. Since 1989, we have worked to ensure the fair administration of justice in criminal and civil legal matters, focusing especially on issues related to drug misuse, juvenile crimes, military veterans, problem-solving courts, racial and ethnic disparities, criminal justice reform, and the Sixth Amendment right to counsel.

Metropolitan Policy Center

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The Metropolitan Policy Center (MPC) was created in the Fall of 2014 within the School of Public Affairs at American University (AU). MPC serves as the metropolitan and urban research hub on AU's campus. MPC's mission is to create knowledge and propose solutions to our 21st century metropolitan and urban challenges. The insights gained through the Center are disseminated to policy makers, think tanks, foundations, nonprofits, community groups and academic and mainstream media outlets.

Middle East Studies Center

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Middle East Studies @ AU aims to build ties across the different schools at American University, between faculty and students and those that share common research interests on the Middle East region at the undergraduate and graduate level.

Model G20 (MG20) Initiative

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The Model G20 Initiative is led by an accomplished team of SIS professors combining valuable experience in multilateral negotiations with an in-depth knowledge of student experiential learning programs (notably Model UN).

Nuclear Studies Institute

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Founded in 1995, the Institute is dedicated to educating the public about crucial aspects of nuclear history. To that end, the Institute offers a summer program consisting of two classes at American University plus a third class—a study abroad trip to Hiroshima, Nagasaki, and Kyoto. Our mission is to improve access to teaching and learning materials regarding the history of the nuclear arms race, from the dropping of nuclear bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki to current efforts to curb the spread of nuclear weapons.

Political Theory Institute

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The Political Theory Institute (PTI) at the AU School of Public Affairs encourages the serious study of the great questions of political theory and brings insights of political theorists to bear on current issues and events. American University has a long tradition of vigorous political debate. Behind every serious political controversy, however, lies a disagreement about political principles, justice, what constitutes “the good life,” or fundamental assumptions about human nature. A thoughtful and morally serious engagement with the controversies of the day, therefore, requires serious reflection on the underlying questions of political theory.

Tax Policy Center

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The Kogod Tax Policy Center seeks to increase public understanding of the nation's tax laws, and to spur balanced, productive dialogue on the status of current tax law, the challenges of tax compliance and planning, and the potential impact of tax reform, with a focus on "average" Americans and small and mid-size businesses.

US-Pakistan Women's Council

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The US-Pakistan Women's Council seeks to grow women's participation in the Pakistani economy through career trainings, entrepreneurial workshops, and employment opportunities. Established in 2012, the Council is led by a partnership between the US State Department and American University in cooperation with public and private stakeholders in both the US and Pakistan.

[Washington Institute for Public Affairs Research](#)

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The Washington Institute for Public Affairs Research serves as a bridge between the academic and policy worlds, advancing scholarly research that addresses pressing issues and concerns. The Institute helps SPA researchers organize and support research projects and promotes collaborative work, effectively putting the lessons of academic research into practice.

[Women and Politics Institute](#)

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The mission of the Women & Politics Institute is to close the gender gap in political leadership. The institute provides young women with academic and practical training that encourages them to become involved in the political process and facilitate research that enhances our understanding of the challenges women face in the political arena.