



In collaboration with



Department of Physics
 Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs
 Center for Advanced Mathematical Sciences

Invite you to

April 22 | May 27
 June 10 and 24, 2021
 4:00 pm Beirut time



[click here to register!](#)

Physics and Public Policy Initiative

Lectures by Physicists in Policy

Building on in-house research on energy, complexity, and stochastic phenomena, the Department of Physics at the American University of Beirut, in collaboration with Issam Fares Institute and the Lebanese CNRS, is launching the “Physics and Public Policy” initiative with the aim of exploring the productive interface between physics and policy, for the benefit of our students, our colleagues and the broader community.

The initiative will work to strengthen the exchange between its parties, integrating public policy thinking in the teaching and research of the Department where appropriate, contributing Physics modeling and insights to public policy, and sustaining Physics research in fusion, materials science, non-equilibrium statistical mechanics, and computational physics.

The initiative kicks-off with a lecture series highlighting journeys of physicists who engage in the complex landscape of public policy and contribute to the effort of solving societal problems. The lecture series, which is part of the initiative, will feature prominent physicists, thinkers, and policy practitioners to discuss their work, career path, and inflection points in their fields.

Speakers

Zia Mian, *Princeton University* | April 22, 2021

Adonai Herrera-Martínez, *European Bank for Reconstruction and Development* | May 27, 2021

Laura Grego, *Union of Concerned Scientists* | June 10, 2021

Victor Yakovenko, *University of Maryland* | June 24, 2021

In this era of interdisciplinary science, of biological physics, network science and econophysics, defining physics as the science of the properties of matter and energy is increasingly outdated and inaccurate. We are therefore prompted to ask anew: what is physics?

Sinatra, R., Deville, P., Szell, M., Wang, D., and Barabasi, A. L. (2015). A century of physics. *Nature Physics*, 11(10), 791