

An Introduction to the 2012–2013 *Cato Papers on Public Policy* and Annual Conference

The goal of the *Cato Papers on Public Policy* and associated conference is to produce new, high-quality research on public policy and to make this research available to a broad audience consisting of academics, policymakers, and journalists.

The research intends to fill a gap in the work that addresses the pros and cons of government policies. Academics produce significant research that analyzes public policies, but much of that work is abstract, technical, and not immediately relevant to real-world policy debates. The *Cato Papers on Public Policy* will evaluate significant economic and social policies, using the techniques of modern economics. The papers will be less technical, on average, than a standard journal article, but more technical than a typical policy analysis. In a nutshell, the papers will aim to produce research that employs modern economic methodology but that is firmly focused on determining what policies are beneficial for the economy and society.

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