

Dr. Gracelin Christina Baskaran

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Summary

Dr. Gracelin Baskaran is the Director of the Critical Minerals Security Program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) and an incoming Adjunct Associate Professor at Georgetown University's Center for Security Studies, where she will teach a new graduate course on critical minerals and national security. A U.S. national and mining economist with over a decade of experience in the field, she began her career in South Africa's platinum belt. She was a Fulbright Scholar and has also held positions at the University of Cambridge, University of London, and University of Cape Town. Dr. Baskaran recently published a policy playbook, *Critical Minerals and the Future of the United States Economy*, and is now writing a book on an international strategy for critical minerals engagement for the United States. She has been cited as an expert in *The Economist*, the *Financial Times*, the *New York Times*, the *Wall Street Journal*, the *Washington Post*, Fox, BBC, Bloomberg, and the U.S. International Trade Commission. Dr. Baskaran has also published over 150 op-eds and columns, policy reports, and white papers and published research in the *Mineral Economics* journal. She is a regular speaker at leading international mining and energy conferences, universities, and policymaker forums, and she has testified before Congress. Dr. Baskaran holds a doctorate from the University of Cambridge.

Experience

Founding Director, Critical Minerals Security Program Center for strategic and international studies 2023-present

- Found and led the first critical minerals-focused program at a major Washington, D.C. think tank.
- Published *Critical Minerals and the Future of the United States Economy* (Bloomsbury, 2025), a widely cited policy playbook.
- Produced widely read analysis on the economics and geopolitics of critical minerals, reaching an audience of more than 600,000 views globally annually.
- Provided direct policy guidance to senior officials at the White House, Departments of Defense, Energy, Commerce, and State, and the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation.
- Served as a trusted advisor to high-level government officials in more than 30 countries across Africa, Asia, Europe, Australia, and the Americas on critical minerals strategy and U.S. engagement.
- Worked closely with over a dozen bipartisan congressional offices, offering input on minerals legislation—much of which was incorporated into final bills.
- Testified twice before the U.S. Congress on issues related to critical mineral security.
- Frequently featured as a subject matter expert in leading media outlets including *The Economist*, *Financial Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *New York Times*, and *Washington Post*, and provides regular commentary on CNN, ABC, BBC, NBC, Bloomberg, and others.
- Founded and convened the inaugural Critical Minerals and National Security Conference at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.
- Created and launched the first executive education program on critical minerals, tailored for senior leaders in both government and industry.
- Received a competitive \$175,000 grant to author a forthcoming book on U.S. global strategy for critical minerals engagement.

- Delivered keynote and panel remarks at forums in the U.S., Canada, U.K., Australia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Singapore, Zambia, Indonesia, and Germany.

Associate Professor (Adjunct)
Georgetown University, Center for Security Studies
2025-present

- Designing and teaching SEST 6762: Critical Minerals & National Security, a three-credit master's level course in the Center for Security Studies.

Bye- fellow in Economics
University of Cambridge
2021-present

Economist (contract)
World Bank
2019-2023

- Office of the Chief Economist: Co-authored book, "Africa's Resource Future: Harnessing Natural Resources for Economic Transformation during the Low-Carbon Transition," and the flagship Africa Pulse report, "Leveraging Resource Wealth During the Low Carbon Transition."
- Represented the World Bank at the Southern African Development Community (SADC) industrial forums in Tanzania and South Africa to present recommendations and discuss intra-regional trade with high-ranking officials from 16 member countries.
- Macroeconomics: Worked on the World Bank macroeconomics, trade and investment portfolio for 8 African countries: South Africa, Botswana, Namibia, Lesotho, Eswatini, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Malawi and co-authored World Bank reports on trade, commodities and climate change. Managed relationships with senior government counterparts.

Senior Research Fellow, Economics
University of Cape town
2020-2021

MPhil & PhD Candidate
University of Cambridge
2015-2020

Teaching Fellow
University of London
2017-2018

Fulbright Fellow
US State department
2014

Education

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) - University of Cambridge **2016-2020**

- PhD thesis entitled: "Essays on the economic and financial challenges facing South Africa's commodity sector."

- Completed with a full scholarship from the Cambridge Political Economy Trust, awarded to one candidate across the university biennially.
- Presented doctoral work at conferences in Austria, South Korea, Zimbabwe, and London.

Master of Philosophy (MPhil) - University of Cambridge
Bachelor of Science (Bsc) - University of Texas at Austin

2015-2016
2010-2013