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Dr. Smith is a professor of economics at the University of Houston. He teaches and conducts research in urban economics and public finance. He has been affiliated with the University of Houston since 1973 and has previously served as Chairman of UH's Economics Department, and as Director of the Center for Public Policy. Dr. Smith continues to work with the Center as the Director of the Institute for Regional Forecasting.

Dr. Smith received his Bachelor of Arts in political science from Brigham Young University in 1969 and his Master of Arts and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Chicago in 1971 and 1974, respectively.

Dr. Smith has conducted numerous studies in urban, housing, transportation, and environmental economics and has published many articles in academic journals and books. During the past 15 years, Dr. Smith has gained national and local recognition for his analyses of the Houston economy and real estate markets. He wrote the Center's Handbook on the Houston Economy and continues to publish two symposium reports per year on Houston's economy and real estate markets.

In addition to his academic work, Dr. Smith has served as a consultant to many national and local organizations, conducting analyses of real estate markets, regional economic trends, and socio-economic impacts. Dr. Smith is also a highly sought after speaker by both profit and non-profit organizations from coast to coast.