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Isabel V. Sawhill is a senior fellow in Economic Studies at the Brookings Institution. She served as vice president and director of the Economic Studies program from 2003 to 2006, and as co-director of the Center on Children and Families from 2007 to 2015. Prior to joining Brookings, Dr. Sawhill was a senior fellow at The Urban Institute. She also served as an associate director at the Office of Management and Budget from 1993 to 1995, where her responsibilities included all of the human resource programs of the federal government, accounting for one third of the federal budget.

In addition, she has authored or edited numerous books and articles including most recently *A New Contract with the Middle Class* (with Richard Reeves, 2020), *The Forgotten Americans: An Economic Agenda for a Divided Nation* (2018) and *Generation Unbound: Drifting into Sex and Parenthood Without Marriage* (2014). Her research has spanned a wide array of economic and social issues, including fiscal policy, economic growth, poverty and inequality, welfare reform, the well-being of children, and changes in the family. She is the Frances Perkins Fellow of the American Academy of Political and Social Science, a recipient of the Academy's Moynihan award (2016), past President of the American Association of Public Policy and Management, and a recipient of their Exemplar award (2014). She was also named a Distinguished Fellow of the American Economic Association (2017).

Dr. Sawhill helped to found Power to Decide, formerly known as The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy. She has been a Visiting Professor at Georgetown Law School and Director of the National Commission for Employment Policy. She received her Ph.D. from New York University in 1968.

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

2015 -	Senior Fellow, Economic Studies, The Brookings Institution
2007-2015	Co-Director, Budgeting for National Priorities Project, The Brookings Institution
2006-2015 Institution	Co-Director, The Center on Children & Families, The Brookings
2003-2006	Vice President & Director of Economic Studies, The Brookings Institution
2003-2014	Cabot Family Chair, The Brookings Institution
1997-	Senior Fellow, Economic Studies, The Brookings Institution
1995-1997	Senior Fellow, Arjay Miller Chair, The Urban Institute
1993-1995	Program Associate Director, Human Resources, Office of Management and Budget

1991-1992	Senior Fellow, The Urban Institute
1990-1991	Visiting Professor, Georgetown University Law Center
1981-1990	Senior Fellow and Director or Co-Director, Changing Domestic Priorities Project, The Urban Institute
1980-1981	Senior Research Associate and Program Director, Employment and Labor Policy, The Urban Institute
1977-1979	Director, National Commission for Employment Policy
1973-1977	Senior Research Associate, The Urban Institute
1970-1973	Assistant Professor and Chairman, Department of Economics, Goucher College
1968-1969	Policy Analyst, the Office of Management and Budget and U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation

EDUCATION

1968	Ph.D., New York University
1962	B.A., New York University
1955-1958	Wellesley College

BOOKS AND MAJOR REPORTS OR JOURNAL ISSUES

Rebalancing: Children First. AEI-Brookings Working Group on Childhood in the United States, 2022.

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Challenge to Leadership: Economic and Social Issues for the Next Decade (editor). Washington, DC: Urban Institute Press, 1988.

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["Improving the Fortunes of America's Working Class."](#) (with Gary Burtless), In *ANNALS* 695: What Has Happened to the American Working Class since the Great Recession, August 2021.

["No time to spare: Exploring the middle class time squeeze."](#) (with Tiffany Ford, Jennifer Silva, and Morgan Welch), Brookings, February 16 2021.

["A post-COVID plan for the middle class: Tax wealth not work and provide scholarships for service."](#) (with Richard Reeves), Brookings, December 16, 2020.

["What if something happens?: A qualitative study of the American middle class before and during the COVID-19 pandemic."](#) (with Jennifer M. Silva, Tiffany Ford, and Morgan Welch), Brookings, November 2020.

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- [“Reducing Unplanned Pregnancy,”](#) *Social Mobility Memos*, November 1, 2013.
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- [“Raising the Minimum Wage: Will It Help?”](#) *Brookings Up Front*, July 1, 2013.
- [“Why We Still Think College Isn't for Everyone,”](#) (with Stephanie Owen), *Brookings Up Front*, May 13, 2013.
- [“Helping Young People Make Better Higher Education Choices,”](#) *Brookings Up Front*, May 10, 2013.
- [“For Some, College May Not Be a Smart Investment,”](#) (with Stephanie Owen), *Brookings Up Front*, May 9, 2013.
- [“College Is The Holy Grail, But Should Everyone Go?,”](#) (with Stephanie Owen), *Brookings Up Front*, May 8, 2013.
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- [“Around the Halls: The Obama Administration's Budget Release,”](#) *Brookings Up Front*, April 10, 2013.
- [“The President's Budget: A Good Strategy for Difficult Times,”](#) *Brookings Up Front*, April 8, 2013.
- [“President Obama's Pragmatically Progressive SOTU Speech,”](#) *Brookings Up Front*, February 13, 2013.
- [“What Will Rubio Say in Response to the SOTU?”](#) *Brookings Up Front*, February 8, 2013.
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- [“Finding a Balance between Personal and Government Responsibility: It’s not Just about Paying Taxes,”](#) *Brookings Up Front*, September 18, 2012
- [“In Defense of Paul Ryan’s Budget Plan,”](#) *Brookings Up Front*, March 20, 2012.
- [“The Payroll Tax Cut Agreement: What Does it Mean for Partisan Gridlock?”](#) *Brookings Up Front*, February 16, 2012.
- [“Around the Halls: Accessing President Obama’s Proposals for Economic Growth and Budget Deficit Reduction,”](#) (with Bill Frenzel, William G. Gale, William A. Galston, Ron Haskins), *Brookings Up Front*, February 14, 2012.
- [“Mapping the Obama Administration’s Priorities,”](#) *Brookings Up Front*, February 13, 2012.
- [“A Perspective on the Budget Deficit and Job Creation,”](#) *Brookings Campaign 2012*, January 19, 2012.
- [“2011: The Year that Income Inequality Captured the Public’s Attention,”](#) *Brookings Up Front*, December 19, 2011.
- [“The President on Opportunity in America,”](#) *Brookings Up Front*, December 13, 2011.
- [“What Happens if the Super Committee Fails?”](#) *Brookings Up Front*, November 16, 2011.
- [“It’s Time to Put Opportunity on the National Agenda,”](#) *Brookings Up Front*, November 3, 2011.
- [“Class Warfare? Not really.”](#) *Brookings Up Front*, September 19, 2011.
- [“Is Anyone Focusing on Jobs?”](#) *Brookings Up Front*, July 29, 2011.
- [“The Republicans Are Winning, but Is the Country?”](#) *Brookings Up Front*, July 26, 2011.
- [“Should Social Security Be Untouchable?”](#) *Brookings Up Front*, May 13, 2011.
- [“Help Wanted: A Left-of-Obama Voice on the Federal Budget,”](#) *Brookings Up Front*, April 13, 2011.
- [“Family Planning Subsidies: Much Ado about Something,”](#) (with Adam Thomas), *Brookings Up Front*, April 12, 2011.
- [“Budget Cuts in All the Wrong Places: Too Much from Too Little Too Soon,”](#) *Brookings Up Front*, February 10, 2011.
- [“The Economic State of the Nation Is Not Good,”](#) *Brookings Up Front*, January 24, 2011.

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[“We Should Strengthen the Safety Net as the Recession Swells the Ranks of the Poor,”](#) *Brookings Up Front*, September 16, 2010.

[“An Update to ‘Simulating the Effect of the ‘Great Recession’ on Poverty,’”](#) (with Emily Monea), *Brookings Up Front*, September 16, 2010.

[“On Social Security and Medicare, Parties Must Compromise to Avoid Fiscal Train Wreck,”](#) *Brookings Up Front*, August 6, 2010.

[“Consider a Value-Added Tax,”](#) *Brookings Up Front*, April 07, 2010.

[“Around the Halls: Would Republican Control of the House be Better for the Obama Administration?”](#) (with Jonathan Rauch, Thomas E. Mann, and Henry J. Aaron). *Brookings Up Front*, March 25, 2010.

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[“Obama and Biden’s Dreams for the Middle Class,”](#) *Brookings Up Front*, January 25, 2010.

[“The Status Report: Obama’s Commitment to Creating Opportunity,”](#) *Brookings Up Front*, January 6, 2010.

[“High Rates of Joblessness and the Deficit,”](#) *Brookings Up Front*, December 9, 2009.

AWARDS

American Academy of Political and Social Science 2016 Moynihan Prize (with Ron Haskins)

Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management 2014 Exemplar Award

Frances Perkins Fellow of the American Academy of Political and Social Science

American Economic Association Distinguished Fellow 2017

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

America’s Promise

Alliance Research Council (2005-)

	Alliance Trustee (2005-)
American Academy of Political and Social Science	Frances Perkins Fellow (2002)
American Assembly	Member, Board of Trustees (1976-1993)
American Economic Association	Member, Executive Committee (1988-1990) Member, Budget Committee (1988-1990) Member, Committee on the Status of Women in the Economics Profession (1975-1977)
American Youth Policy Forum Compendium: Supporting College- and Career-Readiness for All Youth	Member of Advisory Group (2008 -)
Aspen Institute, Domestic Strategies Group	Member (1998-2001)
Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management	President (1988)
Brown Center on Education Brookings Institution	Member of Advisory Committee (1995-1997)
CALDER Center	Member, Advisory Board (2006-)
Center for Economic Policy Research Stanford University	Member, Advisory Board (1987-1993)
Center for Research on Child Well-Being	Member, Advisory Board (2001-2005)
Center for Strategic and International Studies	Member, Commission on Strengthening of America (1991-1993)
Coalition for Evidence-Based Policy	Member, Advisory Board (2002-)
Comeback America Initiative	Member, Advisory Council (2010-)
Committee for Economic Development	Chair, Research Advisory Board (1995-1999) Member, Research Advisory Board (1985-1988)
Communitarian Network	Council Member (1995-)
Council for Excellence in Government	Member, Board of Trustees (1996-2007)
Democracy	Member, Editorial Committee (2006-)
DOL Commission on Workforce Quality and Labor Market Efficiency	Commissioner (1988-1989)

Family Impact Seminar	Member, Board of Directors (1995-1999)
Future of Children	Senior Editor (2005-2008, 2009-)
German Marshall Fund	Member, Board of Trustees (1991-1993)
Greenhill & Co., Inc.	Member, Board of Directors (2004- 2009)
Institute for American Values	Member, Academic Advisory Committee (2001-)
Institute for Research on Poverty, (1987-1990) University of Wisconsin	Member, National Advisory Committee
Issues & Images Television Trust	Honorary Co-chair (1999)
Journal of Economic Literature and Policy Analysis	Member, Editorial Board (1980-1983)
Journal of Economic Perspectives Watch” (regular column, 1989-1993)	Member, Editorial Board and Editor, "Policy
Manpower Demonstration Research Corp.	Member, Board of Directors (1986-93 and 1998-)
Milken Institute Review	Advisory Board (1999-)
National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy	Board President (1996-)
National Marriage Project National Planning Association	Member, Research Advisory Board (1997-) Member of Policy Advisory Group on New Directions: African Americans in a Diversifying Nation (1995)
National Poverty Center	Senior Research Affiliate (2003-)
National Research Council	Member, Board on Science, Technology, and Economic Policy (1991-1993)
Population Action International	Member, Board of Trustees (1996-2005)
Population Reference Bureau, Inc.	Member, Board of Trustees (1989-1992)
Public Interest	Member, Publications Committee (1990-1993 and 1996-2005)
Resources for the Future	Member, Board of Trustees (Vice Chair, 1989-1992)

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Smith Richardson Foundation
Advisory Committee (1995-2003)

Member, Children and Families at Risk Grants

Urban Institute

Co-chair, Advisory Board, Assessing the New
Federalism (1996-2000)