Robert M. Cutler

Research and Advisory Profile

Montréal, Canada · Working internationally
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Robert M. Cutler provides independent research, strategic foresight, and advice on energy security, infrastructure, institutional design, and communications. His assignments have included evaluating energy-export routes, advising corporate strategy, designing an international parliamentary institution, and preparing executive briefings. He brings more than 25 years of advisory experience alongside university research, teaching, and analytical publishing.

Representative advisory work

Energy diplomacy and strategic communications | 2018–2020

Advised the director for corporate strategy of a pipeline-development company in the Black Sea–Caspian region. Designed and implemented its external information strategy; developed website and other information products; communicated through conferences, seminars, policy writing, and interviews; and advised on negotiating strategies and international-diplomatic approaches.

Caspian export-pipeline options | 2000–2004

Consultant to the special assistant to the president of an international oil and gas development company with operations in Central Asia. Evaluated proprietary financial and organizational information, assessed geopolitical risks, and recommended export-pipeline routes and negotiating approaches.

Institutional design | Parliamentarians for Global Action | 2003–2005

Designed the institutional blueprint for a Consultative Assembly of Parliamentarians for the International Criminal Court and Rule of Law, defining structure, responsibilities, and functions. Served as rapporteur for the organization’s strategic review and planning retreat for organizational renewal.

Executive briefings and policy dialogue | EastWest Institute | 1998–1999

Consultant to the special assistant to the president. Served as rapporteur for the Second East–West Leaders’ Forum and prepared a briefing book for a high-level American business delegation to the Caspian Sea region.

Strategic foresight through expert simulations | Wikistrat

Lead analyst for The European Union in 2030 (2013), a three-week simulation involving 80 analysts worldwide, and Global Middle Class Values 2033 (2014), a two-week simulation involving 80 analysts worldwide. These are selected examples from service as lead analyst (2013–2018) and senior analyst (2012–2018).

Further experience and areas of practice

Program leadership | NATO Association of Canada | 2018–present

Senior Research Fellow and Director of the Energy Security Program. Manages and edits the program's analytical publishing; develops publication series; trains and mentors interns; and organizes and moderates webinars and podcasts.

Organizational reviews, research, and publishing

Experience includes review of organizational communication channels in a university president's office and in nongovernmental organizations; design and administration of collaborative research programs; conference and workshop development; editorial-board service; policy analysis; and expert-witness affidavits.

Research and strategic analysis

Practitioner Member, Waterloo Institute for Complexity and Innovation, University of Waterloo (2019–present). Research connects complex systems, international institutions, energy security, infrastructure, and the evolution of international systems. Former Fellow, Canadian Energy Research Institute (2016–2021).

Selected qualifications

Ph.D., Political Science, University of Michigan, 1982; M.A., Political Science, Pennsylvania State University, 1976.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology: Sc.B., Political Science, 1974; Sc.B., Humanities and Science, 1974. Studies in history, literature, and mathematics, with coursework in Western European history and politics.

Postdoctoral research and training at Moscow State University, Columbia University, the University of Nantes, and through the Social Science Research Council and American Council of Learned Societies. Albert Gallatin Fellow, University of Geneva; McLaine Leadership Fellow, Columbia University.

Selected publications

In the Grip of Global Bifurcation: The EU and Its Possible Futures. Baku Dialogues 8:4 (Summer 2025), 6–32.

Soviet and Post-Soviet Foreign Policies, Volume I: East-South Relations and the Political Economy of the Communist Bloc, 1971–1991. Ibidem Verlag, 2022.

How Soviet Foreign Policy Failed: What Complexity Science Tells Us That Nothing Else Can. Emergent Publications, 2013.

The Central Eurasian Hydrocarbon Energy Complex: From Central Asia to Central Europe. In Secure Oil and Alternative Energy. Brill, 2012, pp. 41–74.

Languages: English (native); French (bilingual); Russian (proficient); German and Dutch (working knowledge).

Defining an engagement

The scope, deliverables, timetable, and fee are agreed before substantive work begins. Confidential assignments and work without public attribution can be arranged.