

ARENA STAGE MEDIA RELEASE

Molly Smith Artistic Director Edgar Dobie Executive Director Zelda Fichandler Founding Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ARENA STAGE ANNOUNCES DIALOGUE STARTERS FOR NOVEMBER 18 ARENA CIVIL DIALOGUES

Topic will cover new technologies focused on environment and climate

(Washington, D.C.) Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater will host its latest **Arena Civil Dialogue**, sponsored by Exelon, to engage the D.C.-area community. Scholar, professor and public intellectual **Amitai Etzioni** has curated and will moderate an expert-led panel on the impact of new technologies on the environment and climate. The dialogue will be held in the **Molly Smith Study at Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater on November 18 from 5:30-7 p.m.**

Arena Civil Dialogues bring together Dialogue Starters with expertise on the evening's topic. The Dialogue Starters for November 18 will include: **Claire Brunel**, assistant professor of economics at the American University's School of International Service (SIS); **John R. Ehrenfeld**, retired director of the MIT Program on Technology, Business, and Environment and retired executive director of the International Society for Industrial Ecology (ISIE); **Jonathan Silver**, one of the nation's leading clean economy investors and advisors; and **Andrea C. Simonelli**, assistant professor of Human Security at Virginia Commonwealth University, author, advocate and the founder of Adaptation Strategies International (ASI).

Upcoming Schedule

Monday, November 18, 2019: Environment/Climate: techno optimists meet techno pessimists.
Are new technologies part of the solution or the problem?

Monday, January 27, 2020: Liberals meet conservatives, Dems meet GOP
Are there common grounds and new ways to work together?

There will be a reception before each event, starting at 5 p.m. in the Molly Smith Study. This event is free and open to the public; reservations are required.

For more information and to register for future Arena Civil Dialogues, visit: arenastage.org/civildialogues

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November 18 Dialogue Starter Biographies

Amitai Etzioni (*Curator and Moderator*) is a university professor and professor of International relations at The George Washington University. He served as a senior advisor at the Carter White House; taught at Columbia University, Harvard University and University of California at Berkeley; and served as president of the American Sociological Association (ASA). A study by Richard Posner ranked him among the top 100 American intellectuals. Etzioni is the author of many books, including *The Limits of Privacy* (1999) and *Privacy in a Cyber Age* (2015). His most recent book, *Happiness is the Wrong Metric: A Liberal Communitarian Response to Populism*, was published by Springer in January 2018.

Claire Brunel (*Panelist*) is an assistant professor of economics at the American University's School of International Service (SIS). Her work focuses on empirical investigations providing evidence of the links between environmental policies and international competitiveness, notably in terms of innovation, manufacturing production and international trade. Her current research also extends to big data projects on the effects of climate change on migration in Brazil. Prior to coming to SIS, Professor Brunel worked for the research department of the World Bank, the Peterson Institute for International Economics and at the Embassy of France as trade policy attaché. She obtained an M.Phil. in economics from the University of Oxford and a Ph.D. in economics from Georgetown University.

John R. Ehrenfeld (*Panelist*) retired in 2000 as the director of the MIT Program on Technology, Business and Environment. He retired again in June 2009 as executive director of the International Society for Industrial Ecology (ISIE) after guiding its development after the society was founded in 2000. He continues to be engaged in thinking, writing and teaching about flourishing. He is the author of *The Right Way to Flourish: Reconnecting with the Real World* (2019) and *Sustainability by Design: A Subversive Strategy for Transforming our Consumer Culture* (2008) and co-authored *Flourishing: A Frank Conversation about Sustainability* (2013) with Andrew Hoffman. In June 2009, the ISIE awarded him its Society Prize. In October 1999, the World Resources Institute (WRI) honored him with its first lifetime achievement award. He received the Founders Award for Distinguished Service from the Academy of Management's Organization and Natural Environment Division in August 2000. He holds a B.S. and Sc.D. in Chemical Engineering from MIT and is author or co-author of over 200 papers and other publications.

Jonathan Silver (*Panelist*) is one of the nation's leading clean economy investors and advisors. Named one of the country's top-10 green-tech "influencers," Mr. Silver led both the U.S. government's \$40 billion clean energy investment fund and its \$20 billion advanced automotive technology fund during the Obama Administration. These were – and remain – the largest clean energy funds in the world and are among the most successful government investment efforts ever. Mr. Silver is the managing partner of Tax Equity Advisors LLC, which has invested in and managed over \$400 million in solar power projects on behalf of its Fortune 500 client base. Mr. Silver is also a member of the boards of National Grid (NYSE: NGG); the British utility; Plug Power (PLUG: NASDAQ), the country's leading manufacturer of hydrogen fuel cells; and Intellihot, a leading player in the tankless water heating space. He serves as a senior advisor to NextEra, one of the world's largest utilities and the nation's largest clean energy investor and operator. He has also held similar positions with ICF, the nation's largest energy and environment-focused consulting firm, and Marathon Capital, the largest power industry-focused investment bank. Mr. Silver has served as senior advisor to four U.S. Cabinet Secretaries: energy, commerce, interior and treasury. An honors graduate of Harvard University, Mr. Silver did graduate work at the Institute of Political Studies in Paris and the Graduate Institute of International Studies in Geneva. He speaks French and Spanish and has received both Fulbright and Rotary Graduate Fellowships.

Andrea C. Simonelli (*Panelist*) is an assistant professor of Human Security at Virginia Commonwealth University, author, advocate and the founder of Adaptation Strategies International (ASI). She holds a M.A. and Ph.D. in political science from Louisiana State University. Her book, *Governing Climate Induced Migration and Displacement*, is an intergovernmental evaluation of governance responses to climate migration. She also earned a diploma from the United Nations University Environment and Human Security Programme and Oxford's Refugee Studies Centre Summer School in Forced Migration. Andrea is a speaker for the Climate Voices Network, sits on the roster of experts for the Adaptation Fund and the Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN), is a member of the Human Rights and Climate Change Working Group (HRCCWG), an associate with Millennium Alliance for Humanity & the Biosphere (MAHB) and serves on the North American Board of Directors for Many Strong Voices. Dr. Simonelli was an NGO Observer at the 18th and 19th UNFCCC Conference of the Parties (COP) meetings in Doha, Qatar and Warsaw, Poland, respectively, through her time as a research fellow with the Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL). Her current project, *Saving Paradise? An Analysis of how Governance Affects Climate Resilience through Human Security in the Pacific* has taken her to Western Samoa, Fiji, Tuvalu, the Marshall Islands and will continue to Kiribati and Vanuatu, culminating in more papers and a second book.

Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater, under the leadership of Artistic Director Molly Smith and Executive Producer Edgar Dobie, is a national center dedicated to American voices and artists. Arena Stage produces plays of all that is passionate, profound, deep and dangerous in the American spirit, and presents diverse and ground-breaking work from some of the best artists around the country. Arena Stage is committed to commissioning and developing new plays and impacts the lives of over 10,000 students annually through its work in community engagement. Now in its seventh decade, Arena Stage serves a diverse annual audience of more than 300,000. arenastage.org

Exelon Corporation (NYSE: EXC) is a Fortune 100 energy company with the largest number of electricity and natural gas customers in the U.S. Exelon does business in 48 states, the District of Columbia and Canada and had 2017 revenue of \$33.5 billion. Exelon serves approximately 10 million customers in Delaware, the District of Columbia, Illinois, Maryland, New Jersey and Pennsylvania through its Atlantic City Electric, BGE, ComEd, Delmarva Power, PECO and Pepco subsidiaries. Exelon is one of the largest competitive U.S. power generators, with more than 32,000 megawatts of nuclear, gas, wind, solar and hydroelectric generating capacity comprising one of the nation's cleanest and lowest-cost power generation fleets. The company's Constellation business unit provides energy products and services to approximately 2 million residential, public sector and business customers, including more than two-thirds of the Fortune 100. Follow Exelon on Twitter @Exelon.

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