

# 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 OCTOBER 2 and 21 ARENA CIVIL DIALOGUES

\*\*\*Topics will cover Nationalism and Privatization\*\*\*

(Washington, D.C.) Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater continues to host **Arena Civil Dialogues**, sponsored by Exelon, to engage the D.C.-area community. Scholar, professor and public intellectual **Amitai Etzioni** curates and moderates discussions focusing on topics and questions in today's headlines. This October will have two dialogues. The first dialogue will focus on Nationalism and how it is perceived by the public; the second will focus on privatization and whether we have privatized too much. These dialogues will be held in the **Molly Smith Study at Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater from 5:30-7 p.m. on October 2 and October 21.**

Arena Civil Dialogues bring together Dialogue Starters with expertise on each evening's topic. The Dialogue Starters for **October 2** will include **R. R. Reno**, editor of First Things magazine; **Dr. Nora Bensahel**, visiting professor of Strategic Studies and senior fellow of the Merrill Center at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS); **Rahsaan Maxwell**, associate professor in the Department of Political Science at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill; and **David Brog**, president of the Edmund Burke Foundation. The Dialogue Starters for **October 21** will include **Anna Amirkhanyan**, associate professor of public administration and policy in the School of Public Affairs at American University; **David Boaz**, executive vice president of the Cato Institute; **Diane Katz**, research fellow in regulatory policy at The Heritage Foundation; and **Amit Narang**, regulatory policy advocate for Public Citizen's Congress Watch division.

**The Civil Dialogue on October 2** will examine questions such as: Does Nationalism lead to extreme foreign policy or is it simply a way to show love for one's country?

**The Civil Dialogue on October 21** will examine questions such as: Is it beneficial to have more private cops than police and profit-making prisons? Or is it time to reverse the trend?

#### Upcoming Schedule

**Wednesday, October 2, 2019:** What is wrong with nationalism?

Some see nationalism as leading to aggressive foreign policy; others see it as love of country, as patriotism. Still, others call for leaving it behind and building a global community. What say you?

**Monday, October 21, 2019:** Have we privatized too much?

We have more private cops than police, profit-making prisons, etc. Is it time to reverse the trend?

**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?

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## Page 2— Civil Dialogue dates announced for October 2019

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](http://arenastage.org/civildialogues)

**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.

### October 2 Dialogue Starter Biographies

**R. R. Reno** is the editor of First Things magazine and was formerly a professor of theology and ethics at Creighton University. He is the author of several books including “Fighting the Noonday Devil,” a theological commentary on the Book of Genesis in the Brazos Theological Commentary on the Bible series. His work ranges widely in systematic and moral theology, as well as in controverted questions of biblical interpretation.

**Dr. Nora Bensahel** is a visiting professor of Strategic Studies and senior fellow of the Merrill Center at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS). She is also a contributing editor and columnist for War on the Rocks and an adjunct research staff member at the Institute for Defense Analyses. She serves as a member of the Secretary of Defense’s Reserve Forces Policy Board, and as a member of the Steering Committee of the Leadership Council for Women in National Security.

**Rahsaan Maxwell** is an associate professor in the Department of Political Science at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. The central question for his research is how national boundaries operate, primarily in Western Europe. His recent work focuses on urban-rural divides, cultural diversity, globalization and national culture. His most recent book is “Ethnic Minority Migrants in Britain and France: Integration Trade-Offs,” published by Cambridge University Press in 2012.

**David Brog** is the president of the Edmund Burke Foundation which hosted its inaugural National Conservatism Conference in July 2019. Brog is also the executive director of the Maccabee Task Force, an organization launched in 2015 to combat the de-legitimization of Israel on college campuses and beyond. Brog is the author of “Reclaiming Israel’s History: Roots, Rights and the Struggle for Peace” (2017), “In Defense of Faith: the Judeo-Christian Idea and the Struggle for Humanity” (2010) and “Standing with Israel: Why Christians Support the Jewish State” (2006). He is a graduate of Princeton University and Harvard Law School.

### October 21 Dialogue Starter Biographies

**Anna Amirkhanyan** is an associate professor of public administration and policy in the School of Public Affairs at American University. Dr. Amirkhanyan has a Ph.D. in public administration from the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University. Dr. Amirkhanyan’s research focuses on public and nonprofit management, organizational performance, privatization and citizen participation. She published over 20 articles in various peer-reviewed outlets, such as the Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory (J-PART), Public Administration Review, the Journal of Policy Analysis and Management, the Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly and others. Her recent book “Citizen Participation in the Age of Contracting: When Service Delivery Trumps Democracy” describes the state of citizen participation in governance in the context of privatized health and human services based on nearly 100 interviews with public and private managers.

**David Boaz** is the executive vice president of the Cato Institute and has played a key role in the development of the Cato Institute and the libertarian movement. He is the author of “The Libertarian Mind: A Manifesto for Freedom” and the editor of “The Libertarian Reader.” Boaz is a provocative commentator and a leading authority on domestic issues such as education choice, drug legalization, the growth of government and the rise of libertarianism. Boaz is the former editor of New Guard magazine and was executive director of the Council for a Competitive Economy prior to joining Cato in 1981. His articles have been published in the *Wall Street Journal*, *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Los Angeles Times*, *National Review* and *Slate* and he wrote the entry on libertarianism for *Encyclopedia Britannica*.

**Diane Katz** is a research fellow in regulatory policy at The Heritage Foundation and has analyzed and written on public policy issues for more than two decades. A veteran journalist and policy analyst from Detroit, Katz joined Heritage’s Thomas A. Roe Institute for Economic Policy Studies in August 2010. She previously was director of risk, environment and energy policy for three years at the Fraser Institute, an independent policy research and educational organization in Canada. Katz’s analyses and commentary have been published by *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Washington Times*, *National Review*, *The Weekly Standard* and *Reason Magazine*, in addition to dozens of regional and local newspapers. She holds a bachelor’s degree in philosophy from Thomas Jefferson College and a master’s degree in journalism from the University of Michigan.

**Amit Narang** is a regulatory policy advocate for Public Citizen’s Congress Watch division. He is an expert on the federal regulatory process and has testified before Congress on legislation and issues relating to Executive Branch administration of the rule-making process and Congressional oversight of federal agencies. He has been quoted in various media outlets including *The New York Times*, *National Journal*, *NPR*, *The Hill*, *Bloomberg*, *Reuters* and *Huffington Post* and has appeared on television and radio broadcasts, including NBC News and On Point with Tom Ashbrook. Amit earned his B.A. from the University of Pennsylvania and a J.D. from the American University-Washington College of Law where he was an editor of the *Administrative Law Review* and is currently a member of the *Administrative Law Review’s* Advisory Board.

**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](http://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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