

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
ARENA CIVIL DIALOGUES EXPLORING WHETHER LESS IS MORE
MARCH 2, 2020

*** Dialogue topics for the spring will cover the effects of consumerism
and the ethics behind campaign contributions ***

(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. Now in its third season, scholar, professor and public intellectual **Amitai Etzioni** curates and moderates discussions focusing on topics and questions in today's headlines. All 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.**

Arena Civil Dialogues bring together dialogue starters with expertise on the evening's topic. The dialogue starters for March 2 will include **Carl J. Strikwerda, Bob Engelman, Laura J. Miller and Mario Pandelaere**.

This Civil Dialogue will examine questions such as: Is less more? Can we find happiness in the pursuit of consumer goods? What are the alternatives?

Upcoming Schedule

Monday, March 2, 2020: Is less more? Can we find happiness in the pursuit of consumer goods? What are the alternatives?

Monday, March 30, 2020: Are campaign contributions a legalized bribery or a form of free speech?

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.

March 2 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.

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Page 2— Civil Dialogue starters announced for March 2, 2020

Robert Engelman is a researcher and writer on environmental, demographic, reproductive health and gender-related topics. Currently affiliated as a senior fellow with the Population Institute in Washington, D.C., he is a former president of the Worldwatch Institute, an environmental think tank. He co-founded and chaired the board of the Center for a New American Dream (now New Dream), an organization working to transform consumption for human and environmental well-being. He is the main author of a chapter on consumption and population in *Planetary Health: Protecting Nature to Protect Ourselves* (Island Press, forthcoming in August 2020). A journalist for 15 years, Engelman reported for the *Associated Press*, daily newspapers in Kansas City and Denver, and *Scripps Howard News Service* in Washington. Covering science, health and the environment, as well as national politics from the late 1970s to the early 1990s, he was founding secretary of the Society of Environmental Journalists and reported from Mexico, Central America, and Haiti, as well as the United States. His book *More* (Island Press, 2008) explored the connections between population, the environment, and the lives and status of women. His writing includes numerous book chapters as well as peer-reviewed papers in nature, science and other journals. His general articles have appeared in *Scientific American*, *The Wall Street Journal* and *The Washington Post*. He has been a visiting lecturer at Ohio University and Yale University, where over several years he co-taught classes on population issues.

Laura J. Miller is department chair and professor of sociology at Brandeis University. With primary interests in the sociology of culture and consumption studies, her research focuses on the intersection of cultural and economic factors within industries characterized by moral commitments to their products. She is the author of *Reluctant Capitalists: Bookselling and the Culture of Consumption* (University of Chicago Press, 2006) and *Building Nature's Market: The Business and Politics of Natural Foods* (University of Chicago Press, 2017), which received the American Sociological Association Consumers & Consumption Section Distinguished Scholarly Publication Award in 2018.

Mario Pandelaere joined Virginia Tech as associate professor in marketing in 2015. His research interests include consumer judgment and decision making, and materialism and conspicuous consumption. Much of his research falls under the umbrella of transformative consumer research, which is aimed at improving consumer outcomes and well-being. His research has been published in top-tier journals in business and in psychology. He has reviewed for over 30 academic journals and currently serves on the editorial board of the *Journal of Consumer Research* and is a senior editor for the *International Journal of Research in Marketing*. He was on the program committee of ten major academic conferences and has served on over 20 dissertation committees. He serves as a panel member on two science committees: The Research Foundation - Flanders (FWO) and The Australian Research Council (ARC). Professor Pandelaere has taught public relations, persuasive communication, marketing communication, advertising and currently teaches marketing, society and public interest to undergraduates, and experimental design and data analysis to graduate students.

Carl J. Strikwerda is professor of history emeritus and former president of Elizabethtown College in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, having served previously as dean of arts and sciences at the College of William and Mary and associate dean at the University of Kansas. He has published two co-edited volumes, *Consumers Against Capitalism? Consumer Cooperation in Europe, North America, and Japan* and *The Politics of Immigrant Workers: Labor Activism and Migration in the World Economy Since 1830*. He authored *A House Divided: Catholics, Socialists, and Flemish Nationalists in Nineteenth Century Belgium*; articles in *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, *Huffington Post* and *Inside Higher Ed*; and a book with Anne-Marie McCartan, *Deans and Development: Making the Case for the Liberal Arts*. He is writing a book on what the era of World War One teaches us about dealing with globalization. President Strikwerda has previously served as an historical consultant to the National World War One Museum and a member of the President's Trust of the Association of American Colleges and Universities. He currently serves on the executive committee of the Council for European Studies, on the board of directors for the High Family Foundation, and as a senior fellow for religious pluralism for the Interfaith Youth Core and the Inclusive America Project of the Aspen Institute.

Page 3— Civil Dialogue starters announced for January 27, 2020

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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