

SUMMER 2020 AT COLLEGE OF THE ATLANTIC

Sponsored by The Champlain Society



The 2020 Champlain Institute

November 3 — What's at Stake?

MONDAY, JULY 27 THROUGH FRIDAY, JULY 31, 2020

TUESDAY, JULY 7 AT 9:00 AM

Coffee & Conversation: Nature's Narrative

Terrestrial ecologist Tom Wessels will share unique stories of New England's natural history, including landscape histories and how to interpret them, unique plant adaptations, coevolved interactions, and special places to explore in New England. Wessels will speak with Todd Little-Siebold, professor of history and Latin American studies at COA.

TUESDAY, JULY 14 AT 9:00 AM

Coffee & Conversation: Architecture at the Intersection of Culture, Place and Program

Architect Susan Rodriguez will discuss the influences Maine has had on her work throughout her career, from an emphasis on creating architecture that is true to and reflective of site and culture, to a commitment to sustainable practices. Rodriguez will be joined by COA President Darron Collins '92.

TUESDAY, JULY 21 AT 9:00 AM

Coffee and Conversation: Storytelling at the End of Ideology

Novelist Jonathan Lethem will discuss his recent writing at the intersection of ecology, dystopia and utopia, climate change, and science fiction. He will also provide insight into how his time in Maine influences his work. Lethem will be in conversation with Lynn Boulger, COA's dean of institutional advancement.

MONDAY, JULY 27 5:00 PM

An Evening with Hillary Rodham Clinton

Healthcare, national security, the environment, America's leadership role in the world, and the state of our diplomatic corps are all issues that will be affected by the decisions we make on November 3. Join 2016 Democratic presidential nominee and former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton as she discusses with historian Ted Widmer the consequences before us as we vote in the next election.

Introduced by: Ambassador Philip Lader

TUESDAY, JULY 28 9:30 AM

Addressing National Threats and Emergencies

COVID-19 is the latest disaster to challenge the US government, US businesses, and the lives of every American. National threats and emergencies range from climate change, cyber threats, and terrorism to natural disasters and pandemics. How well does the US government prioritize and prepare for these risks and how well do they respond when there is an emergency? What role and responsibilities do state and local governments and the private sector have in preparing for these challenges? These topics will be the focus of discussion between Nathaniel Fogg, former Deputy Chief Operating Officer and Counselor to the Administrator at the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Nick Dowling, Founder and CEO of IDS International, a firm that helps the US government handle complex national security challenges ranging from cyber warfare to COVID-19.

Introduced by: Arthur Martinez

TUESDAY, JULY 28 11:00 AM

How to Unite the United States— Lessons from Lincoln

Ted Widmer's new book *Lincoln on the Verge* tells the story of America's greatest president and the obstacles he overcame even before he could take the oath of office and deliver his inaugural address. Widmer will talk with COA professor Jamie McKown, also a Lincoln scholar, about similarities and differences between Lincoln's divided country and ours today.

Introduced by: Philip Kunhardt

TUESDAY, JULY 28 5:00 PM

Call Me American

Abdi Nor Iftin was five when the civil war began in Somalia. As the years went on, amidst the famine and the daily shelling of the war, he went to school and scrambled to make money to help his family. Evading conscription by al-Shabaab while secretly filing stories for NPR under penalty of death, he stayed in Somalia until he had no choice but to flee to Kenya. While there, he had an incredible stroke of luck in 2014: he won the Diversity Visa Lottery. His story was chronicled on *This American Life*: "Abdi and the Golden Ticket". Nor Iftin will talk with Frances Stead Sellers, senior writer on the America desk at the *Washington Post*, about immigration, being a refugee, and his life in America.

Introduced by: Ambassador William Echo

WEDNESDAY, JULY 29 9:30AM

Extremism in the 21st Century

September 11, 2001 ushered in the threat of violent extremism in this century. Since then, we have not only seen a two decade

long war on jihadist terrorism, but the rise of extremist politics in Western democracies. White nationalism on the right, socialism on the left, and hostility to the “establishment” are increasingly part of our politics. Join us for a talk on the challenge of extremism with Jasmine El-Gamal, Atlantic Council Senior Fellow and former Middle East Advisor at the Department of Defense, and Nick Dowling, founder and CEO of IDS International.

Introduced by: Lynn Boulger

WEDNESDAY, JULY 29 5:00 PM

An Evening with Kay C. James

What are the principles of conservative thought and how do they shape policy in America today? What are the main differences between progressives and conservatives? The Heritage Foundation is dedicated to formulating and promoting conservative public policies based on the principles of free enterprise, limited government, individual freedom, traditional American values, and a strong national defense. Join Kay C. James, president of the Heritage Foundation, for a talk on the priorities of America’s premier conservative think tank.

THURSDAY, JULY 30 9:30 AM

How We Eat Now

The effect of the coronavirus pandemic has been nothing less than catastrophic for the independent restaurants that make up two-thirds of the American dining landscape, from dockside lobster shacks to fine dining emporia, and those effects have cascaded down on farmers and fishermen, on laundry services, and wine wholesalers. At the same time, millions of Americans have spent months honing home-cooking skills while under quarantine or lockdown, sometimes under severe conditions of food insecurity. What happens now? Sam Sifton, an assistant managing editor of *The New York Times*, returns to the Champlain Institute to survey the damage and talk with Frances Stead Sellers, senior writer at the *Washington Post’s* America desk, about the future of food in the United States.

Introduced by: Ted Widmer

THURSDAY, JULY 30 11:00 AM

The Struggle for America

Evangelicals have, in many ways, defined the nation. Constituting 25% of the American population, they have shaped our culture and our politics. In 2016, they voted overwhelmingly for Trump, but they are not monolithic in their politics, ranging from Tea Party supporters to social reformers. What will they do in November and why does it matter? Join activist, environmentalist,

and novelist Roxana Robinson and Frances Fitzgerald, the Pulitzer-Prize winning journalist and author of *The Evangelicals: The Struggle to Shape America*.

Introduced by: R. Marie Griffith

THURSDAY, JULY 30 5:00 PM

A More or Less Perfect Union

Freedom of speech, religion, press, and assembly, the Second Amendment, eminent domain, the separation of powers, and civil rights are some of the topics covered in *A More or Less Perfect Union*, a PBS series hosted by Judge Douglas Ginsburg. A constitutional expert with thirty years of experience on the Federal Court of Appeals in Washington, DC, Ginsburg will talk with Alan Crain, chairman of the Houston Committee on Foreign Relations about the law “that governs those who govern us”—the American Constitution.

Introduced by: Ambassador C. Boyden Gray

FRIDAY, JULY 31 9:30 AM

Unbreaking America

Americans are profoundly troubled about the condition of our democracy. According to a 2017 *Washington Post*—University of Maryland poll, 71% agree that our political system has reached “a dangerous low point” and just under two-thirds of Americans now believe the US political system is dysfunctional. There is almost universal agreement (96%) that money in politics is a major driver of government dysfunction. RepresentUs was founded to fix our political system. The post-partisan organization brings together conservatives, progressives, and everyone in between to pass laws that stop political bribery, end secret money, and fix our broken elections. Josh Silver, founder and director of RepresentUs, will discuss with Will Thorndike how he believes we can fix our democracy so that our representatives represent us. He will highlight new efforts to pass comprehensive vote-at-home policies that ensure safety amidst the pandemic while increasing voter participation.

Introduced by: Ted Widmer

FRIDAY, JULY 31 5:00 PM

Society at a Tipping Point: Race, Class & the Way Forward

On May 25, George Floyd died at the hands of the Minneapolis police—and the world has not been the same since. COVID-isolated for months, tens of thousands of people flooded the streets of cities and towns all over America to protest police brutality, systemic racism, and white supremacy. In *Five Days*, his new book about the Baltimore riots in the wake of the death of Freddie Gray, Wes Moore examines the warning signs, analyzes the consequences, and calls out the root causes

of violence and intergenerational poverty. Moore, who is CEO of Robin Hood, one of the largest anti-poverty forces in the nation, will talk about solutions that can help to restore America’s promise of opportunity for all.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 11 AT 9:00 AM

Coffee & Conversation: Breaking the Glass Coffin

Sculptor and painter Rachel Feinstein will speak on the influences for her work, her studio practice on MDI, and her recent show at the Jewish Museum. Feinstein will be in conversation with Frances Stead Sellers, senior writer at the *Washington Post*.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 18 AT 9:00 AM

Coffee & Conversation: Oceanography on a Changing Planet

From harmful algal blooms to rising temperatures, changes in our ocean are driving global challenges. Dr. Deborah Bronk, oceanographer and the president and CEO of Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences, will highlight the challenges this field of research can help us overcome, and the science that can help shape the future health of our planet and all who live on it. Bronk will be joined by marine scientist Abby Barrows MPhil '18.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 25 AT 9:00 AM

Coffee & Conversation: Africa’s Gift

Historian David Hackett Fischer will discuss his forthcoming book on the African origins of American slaves and their creative roles in helping to shape American values, cultures, institutions, and ideas. Joining Hackett Fischer will be COA trustee Will Thorndike.

In accordance with Governor Mills’ guidelines and the prohibition on gatherings of more than 50 people for the summer months, College of the Atlantic will be offering all Coffee & Conversation and Champlain Institute sessions in a virtual environment. We look forward to bringing our intellectual community together in stimulating conversation, but safely for all—whether audience members are in Seal Harbor or Santa Fe. For more information on how to view and participate in these events, please visit coa.edu/summerevents

**Special Guest Appearance
Senator George Mitchell**