



*The **Conversations on Leadership Series** features discussions with skilled leaders well-versed across some of the highest ranks of government, business and more. Speakers will share insights from their wide-ranging careers including how to navigate top-level leadership and other important lessons learned. With extensive experience in strategic and forward-thinking leadership roles, speakers will also offer their views on how to think about and address the most pressing current and future challenges in their various fields of expertise.*

Navigating the Intelligence Community with Meroë Park

Facilitated by Nathan Hitchen

Thursday, September 10th -- 10:30-11:30 AM EST

Zoom Link: <https://bit.ly/31Xn09Z>

(Note: Only the speaker and facilitator will be on-screen for this session.
Please submit questions via the Zoom Q&A function.)



Meroë Park – Deputy Secretary and Chief Operating Officer, Smithsonian Institute

Park is Deputy Secretary and Chief Operating Officer at the Smithsonian Institute. Previously, Park was the executive vice president of the Partnership for Public Service in Washington, D.C., where she led programs dedicated to improving the effectiveness and efficiency of the federal government.

Before that, she was the former executive director/chief operating officer of the CIA. Over the course of her 27-year career at the CIA (1989–2017), Park ascended from a junior intelligence analyst to the highest civil-servant position within the agency. In addition to serving as the CIA’s executive director/chief operating officer from 2013 to 2017, Park held wide-ranging roles, including acting director, chief of human resources, director of the office of corporate resources and chief of payroll. She guided the organization through several strategic initiatives including the modernization of the CIA’s information technology systems. She was awarded the CIA’s Distinguished Intelligence Medal in 2016. Park is a Distinguished Executive in Residence at Georgetown University and holds a bachelor’s degree from the university’s School of Foreign Service.

In the News: [CBS News Interview on Park’s tenure at the CIA](#)



Nathan Hitchen – Graduate Fellow (2009-10)

Nathan Hitchen was born and raised in New Jersey and attended Rutgers University. He later moved to Washington, D.C. and studied the Middle East and economics at Johns Hopkins University - SAIS, where he was one of the first recipients of the Rumsfeld Foundation Fellowship in 2009. Nathan's professional experience spans various positions in the private, nonprofit, and public sectors as an analyst and as a consultant he helps nonprofit organizations with strategic planning. He went back to graduate school at The Institute of World Politics from 2018-2019 to study the nature of nonviolent conflict in foreign affairs. He loves reading about strategy, statecraft, and American history, in addition to doing home improvement projects with his wife and enjoying downtime with his three kids.

*“There are known knowns: the things you know. There are known unknowns: the things you know you don’t know.
But there are also unknown unknowns: the things you don’t know you don’t know.” – Donald Rumsfeld*