

Good evening, and welcome to The New School! My name is Michelle DePass, and I am the Director of the university-wide Tishman Environment and Design Center, and Dean of the Milano School of International Affairs, Management, and Urban Policy.

Thank you all for joining us tonight for Social Impact Investing for Sustainability with the Impact Finance Center. I'd like to extend a special thank you to Dr. Stephanie Gripne, the founder of the Impact Finance Center and Doug Johnson, Senior Advisor of the Impact Finance Center for joining us tonight at The New School.

The Tishman Center fosters design, policy, and social justice approaches to environmental issues to advance just and sustainable outcomes in collaboration with communities. We strive to create interdisciplinary opportunities for both the New School community and the wider external community to invest in their community's future. We are delighted to be hosting Dr. Gripne and Mr. Johnson tonight to learn more about how impact investing can play a role in creating real-world solutions through creative approaches to finance and investing.

In order for these opportunities and solutions to be possible, we need to make investments in the right places. Social impact investing will drive new resources and new thinking to organizations that are propelling social change. We need all branches of our society, including the private sector and higher education, to create new sustainable solutions.

At The New School, we take this challenge seriously and have already begun making impactful investments starting with the formation of our Advisory Committee on Investor Responsibility which develops strategies for incorporating consideration of social, environmental, and corporate governance issues into The New School's investments. In 2014 the Board of Trustees committed to divest from fossil fuels and also made a direct investment in a renewable energy company that is 50% larger than The New School's investment in all fossil fuel companies and funds at that time. Our sustainability work through the Tishman Center creates interdisciplinary opportunities for each member of the New School community to bring a social justice perspective into the conversation about sustainability and collaborate with communities to create solutions for a better future.

Tonight we will hear from two experts on social impact investing from the Impact Finance Center, Dr. Stephanie Gripne and Doug Johnson on how we can move billions of dollars into our communities one transaction at a time. The Impact Finance Center works with individuals, families, foundations, businesses and other experts to build long-term, effective philanthropic strategies and actionable plans that align with philanthropists' values.

I hope that you find this discussion both inspiring and informative and that you will use this knowledge going forward as you work to invest in your own communities.

I am sure you are just as excited as I am to learn about this important topic. Thank you all for joining us tonight. I would now like to welcome my colleague, Dr. Ana Baptista, the Associate Director of the Tishman Center and Assistant Professor in our Environmental Policy and Sustainability Management program here at The New School to introduce our guests tonight.

Thank you.

