

enLIGHTeNING Lunch

a lunchtime talk series sponsored by the
School for the Future of Innovation in Society

ASU School for the
Future of Innovation
in Society
Arizona State University

Ariel Anbar

Wednesday, March 28, 2018

12 - 1 p.m.

Memorial Union, Gold Room 207

Lunch will be served

RSVP: http://bit.ly/SFIS_Anbar

PlanetWorks: A Planetary Perspective on the Anthropocene

The Anthropocene is a new planetary epoch defined by the emergence of human activity as one of the most important driving forces on Earth, rivaling and also stressing the other systems that govern the planet's habitability. Public discussions and debates about the challenges of this epoch tend to be polarized. One extreme denies that humans have a planetary-scale impact, while the other wishes that this impact could disappear. The tension between these perspectives is often paralyzing. Effective adaptation and mitigation requires a new perspective that reframes the conversation. The Anthropocene is not an unnatural event that can be reversed, as though humanity is separate from the Earth systems with which we are coevolving. Rather, it is an evolutionary transition to be managed. We need an integrated approach to Earth systems science that considers humans as a natural, integral, and evolving component of Earth's systems.

Ariel Anbar is a scientist and educator interested in Earth's past and future evolution as an inhabited world, and the prospects for life beyond. His group develops novel geochemical methods to study topics ranging from the chemical evolution of the atmosphere and oceans to human disease. Trained as a geologist and a chemist, Anbar is a President's Professor at Arizona State University, where he is on the faculty of the School of Earth & Space Exploration and the School of Molecular Sciences, and a Distinguished Sustainability Scholar in the Global Institute of Sustainability. The author or co-author of over 100 refereed papers, Anbar directed ASU's NASA-funded Astrobiology Program from 2009 – 2015, oversees ASU's Center for Education Through eXploration, co-leads the PlanetWorks initiative, and is the President of the Biogeosciences Section of the American Geophysical Union. He is a graduate of Harvard (A.B. 1989) and Caltech (Ph.D. 1996). Before coming to ASU he was on the faculty of the University of Rochester from 1996 to 2004. Anbar is a Fellow of the Geological Society of America, which awarded him the Donath Medal in 2002. He was recognized as an HHMI Professor in 2014 and elected a Fellow of the Geochemical Society and the European Association of Geochemistry in 2015.

