



TWELFTH SEMI-ANNUAL MUNK DEBATE ANNOUNCED

ARE MEN OBSOLETE?

— **Hanna Rosin, Maureen Dowd, Caitlin Moran, and Camille Paglia convene in Toronto, Canada, to debate gender relations in the 21st century** —

September 17, 2013 – Toronto, Canada

The Munk Debates announced today the resolution and debaters for the twelfth semi-annual event, to be held in Toronto on Friday, November 15, 2013. To encourage public discussion of one of the big socio-economic phenomena of our time – the relative decline of the power and status of men in the workplace, in the family and in society at large – the autumn 2013 Munk Debate will move the motion: ***Be it resolved: men are obsolete.***

Throughout history, men have been the dominant sex. But now, for the first time, a host of indicators suggest that women not only are achieving equality with men but are fast emerging as the more successful sex of the species. Whether in education, employment, personal health or child rearing, statistics point to a rise in the status and power of women at home, in the workplace, and in traditional male bastions such as politics. But are men, and the age-old power structures associated with “maleness,” permanently in decline?

Arguing **for the resolution** will be **Hanna Rosin**, senior editor of *The Atlantic* and author of the definitive book on the decline of men and maleness in modern society, *The End of Men*. She will be joined by *New York Times* columnist **Maureen Dowd**, the recipient of the 1999 Pulitzer Prize for distinguished commentary.

Speaking **against the resolution** will be **Caitlin Moran**, British broadcaster, critic, columnist, and author of the global bestseller *How to Be a Woman*. Moran will be joined by **Camille Paglia**, a professor and social critic recognized as one of the world’s top 100 public intellectuals by *Foreign Policy* and *Prospect*.

Rudyard Griffiths, director and moderator of the Munk Debates, comments: “The relative decline of male performance from the job market to the educational system to points beyond is a fascinating issue. Fundamentally, is this phenomenon a blip in gender relations or a profound reworking of our post-industrial societies? This debate is sure to provide some interesting answers.”

The Munk Debates offer a lively and substantive forum for leading thinkers to discuss the pressing issues of our time. Two debates are held each year in Toronto, one in the spring and one in the fall. Previous Munk Debate participants include former British prime minister Tony Blair, Henry Kissinger, Christopher Hitchens, Paul Krugman, Lawrence Summers, Dambisa Moyo, Fareed Zakaria, UN Special Envoy for HIV AIDS Stephen Lewis, and Mia Farrow.

The Munk Debates is a signature initiative of the Aurea Foundation, founded in 2006 by Peter and Melanie Munk to support Canadian institutions involved in the study and development of public policy.

“Our philanthropy is aimed primarily at improving the quality and vitality of public debate in Canada,” said **Peter Munk**, speaking about the rationale for the Munk Debates. “Whether it is the support we provide to the Munk School at the University of Toronto or the creation of the Munk Debates through our Aurea Foundation, Melanie and I are committed to broadening public knowledge, education, and informed discourse.”

The Munk Debates are open to the public. The Debate on the End of Men will take place in Toronto at Roy Thomson Hall on **Friday, November 15**, at 7:00 pm EST. **Tickets go on sale to Munk Debate Premium Members at 10:00 AM on Tuesday, September 24. Remaining tickets will go on sale to the public at 12:00 NOON on Thursday, September 26.** For information on purchasing tickets, or premium membership, please visit www.munkdebates.com. Seating is limited.

The debate will also be broadcast live over the Internet for global viewing audiences. For more information on the livestream of the Munk Debate on the End of Men visit www.munkdebates.com

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