

Dr. John H. Marburger, III

Monday, November 9, 2009, 4:00 p.m., SAC Ballroom B

Energy, Economics, and Ethics

Energy is the physical basis of all economies, and for a given set of energy technologies economic development implies increased energy consumption and increased environmental impact. Increasing economic development while decreasing environmental impacts leads to ethical dilemmas that are expensive to resolve. These issues are the root cause of the political difficulty of addressing anthropogenic climate change on a global scale and are not likely to be resolved with purely technical innovations.