The Senate's refusal to consider President Obama's nomination of Judge Merrick Garland for the vacant seat on the Supreme Court raises critical questions.

- What are the norms for considering judicial nominations?
- Have they changed over time?
- How have Senate Republicans treated other Obama nominations?
- How did Senate Democrats treat nominations by President George W. Bush, and other Supreme Court nominations by Republican presidents?

In short, what is the context for the current battle, and how does it fit with the long-term trends in the process of "Advice and Consent?" Sara Schiavoni has co-authored the most current and thorough scholarship on these issues.

Ms. Schiavoni and her colleagues have exhaustively analyzed confirmation politics during the Obama presidency. They show how Obama's nominees compare to those of other presidents, assess his success in winning nominations, and through extensive interviews elucidate the politics behind Senate Democrats' embrace in 2013 of the "nuclear option" to eliminate filibusters of District Court, Circuit Court, and many executive branch nominations. Join us to learn about the facts and history behind the headlines, charges and counter-charges.