ASU Humanities Institute
Arizona State University

INR INSTITUTE NOVA REVIJA FOR THE HUMANITIES

ASU Barrett The Honors College
Arizona State University

The texts considered classics in the Humanities speak to our time, too—if we might borrow Homer's appeal to the Muse—if we but have the time and space conserved for the good company who read, discuss, and write about these texts. Furthermore, there is no conceivable time nor place now nor in future for which the Humanities will not help create the horizon into which human freedom and responsibility will move toward a collective leading of the good life. Insofar as the Humanities need both time and space for reading, discussion, and writing, this symposium is an attempt to provide a special venue for such.

Art and Design by Dominique Dredd

Humanities as the Horizon of Responsibility and Freedom

An International Symposium

Institute Nova Revija for the Humanities, Humanities Institute at ASU, and Barrett, the Honors College at ASU

Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona USA
22-24 January 2026

Program Agenda

Thursday, Jan 22
Symposium Opening
Vista del Sol Theater

15:45-16:30 — Gathering and Coffee

Gathering and Student Registration
Vista del Sol Theater

16:45-17:45 — Opening Remarks

Presented by the Following
Tara Williams, Dean, Barrett, the Honors College
Tomaž Zalaznik, Director, Institute Nova Revija, Ljubljana, Slovenia
Ron Broglio, Director, Humanities Institute ASU
Diane Gruber, Assistant Dean, Barrett West Valley ASU
Jeffery Cohen, Dean, The College ASU
Ruben Espinoza, Director, Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies ASU
Andrej Božič on behalf of Dr. Dean Komel, Head Researcher, Institute Nova Revija Ljubljana, Slovenia

Moderator: Elise Poll, PhD candidate Department of English ASU

18:00-19:00 — Opening Keynote Address

"Toward a Hermeneutic of the Heart in the Synodal World: Humanities as the Locus Hermeneuticus of Responsibility, Freedom, and Dwelling."
Andrzej Wierciński, President, International Institute for Hermeneutics and Professor Artes Liberales University of Warsaw, Poland

Moderator: Dominique Dredd, Barrett West Valley alumna

19:15 — Dinner

Held at Barrett Dining Hall

Friday, Jan 23
Scholar Presentations
Vista del Sol Theater

9:15-10:00 — Gathering and Coffee

Gathering and Conversation
Vista del Sol Theater

10:00-12:15 — Scholar Session One

10:00-10:45 — **"From Plato to Silko: The Struggle for Multiracial Democracy and The War Against the Humanities"**
Alex Young, Barrett, the Honors College ASU

10:45-11:30 — **"The Humanities as a Perspective on Events"**
Bernard Nežmah, Institute Nova Revija, Ljubljana, Slovenia

11:30-12:15 — **"Repose in the Bosom of Certainty: An Old (and New) Vision of Catholicism in a Pluralist Society"**
Catherine O'Donnell, School of Historical, Philosophical and Religious Studies ASU

Moderator: Violet Anderson, Barrett West Valley alumna

12:30-13:30 — Lunch

Lunch Break and Conversation
Barrett Dining Hall

13:45-15:45 — Scholar Session Two

13:45-14:30 — **"How Will I Know: Reclaiming The Scope of Practice for Science from Rhetorical Drift into Truth"**
Erin Sellner, Barrett, the Honors College ASU

14:30-15:15 — **"Odd Friends: The Tension between Freedom, Plurality, and Incipience"**
Barbara Weber, University of British Columbia

15:15-16:00 — **"Utu—I am because you are: Acrobatic Practice as an Expression of African Humanism"**
Nina Berman, School of International Letters and Cultures ASU

Moderator: Grace Kominak Student Barrett, the Honors College West Valley

16:45-17:45 — Keynote Address

"Private Passions, Public Poems: The Struggles of Constantine Cavafy."
Gregory Jusdanis, Distinguished Arts and Humanities Professor, The Ohio State University

Book signing of Jusdanis' *Constantine Cavafy: A New Biography* to follow

Moderator: Kameryn Frazier Student Barrett, the Honors College West Valley

18:30 — Dinner

See Symposium Materials for Local Restaurant Recommendations/Map

Saturday, Jan 24
Scholar Presentations
Ross-Blakley Hall, room 196

9:45-10:30 — Gathering and Coffee

Gathering and Conversation
Vista del Sol Theater

10:30-12:45 — Scholar Session Four

10:30-11:15 — **"Humanism in the First Grail Romance"**
Alenka Kozelj, Institute Nova Revija, Ljubljana, Slovenia

11:15-12:00 — **"The Impossibility of Love, Family, Chivalry and Morality in Le Morte D'Arthur"**
Ron Broglio, Humanities Institute ASU

12:00-12:45 — **"Humanistic Knowledge and Its Significance for Public Discourse"**
Manca Erzetič, Institute Nova Revija, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Moderator: Jillian Coronato, Barrett, the Honors College alumna

13:00-14:00 — Lunch

Lunch Break and Conversation
Barrett Dining Hall

14:15-16:15 — Scholar Session Five

14:15-15:00 — **"Humanities at a Standstill: Safeguarding the Place and Pace of Thinking"**
Ramsey Eric Ramsey, Barrett, the Honors College ASU

15:00-15:45 — **"Toward the Human Through (Anti-?)Humanism: Martin Heidegger and Dušan Pirjevec"**
Andrej Božič, Institute Nova Revija, Ljubljana, Slovenia

15:45-16:30 — **"This World is a Hard Place to Live: Discomfort, Homecoming, and the Necessity of the Humanities"**
Jessica Sturgess, Barrett, the Honors College ASU

Moderator: Adam Senkerik Student, Barrett, the Honors College West Valley

16:45-19:00 — Hors d'oeuvres/Tapas Gathering

Farewell Remarks and Commencement Conversations
ASU Humanities Institute , Ross-Blakley Hall room 197