Each year Humanities Day presents the public with a snapshot of leading humanities research at the University of Chicago. Explore multiple topics, which include from robots to iBots, the afterlives of Joan of Arc, gimmicks and capitalism, ethics, and much more.

Join us in person or virtually as we celebrate this year’s hybrid event, commemorating the power of art, literature, philosophy, music, linguistics, and languages.
SESSION 1: 9:30–10:30 A.M.

Susanne Paulus
Back to School in Babylonia

Bart Schultz
Decolonizing Utilitarianism

W. J. T. Mitchell**
From Robots to iBots: The Iconology of Artificial Intelligence

Catriona MacLeod
Interacting with 19th-Century Gift Books

Jonathan M. Hall
Spurious Continuities Between the Ancient and the Modern in Greek Religious Practice

Clifford Ando
Teaching Democratic Failure in Greece and Rome

** = In-person and live-streamed session available on Zoom

KEYNOTE SESSION:
11:00 A.M.–NOON

Sianne Ngai**
The Gimmick as Aesthetic Category and Capitalist Form

What is an aesthetic category? In what sense is it a historical product enabling us to think more deeply about other historical phenomena, including our contemporary moment? How are its two components, spontaneous judgment and the perception of form, brought together into a distinctive experience? While drawing on philosophers to think about these questions, this keynote presentation will also explore them through a problematic example specific to capitalist culture: the extravagantly impoverished, simultaneously overperforming and underperforming, fundamentally compromised gimmick.

** = In-person and live-streamed session available on Zoom
MIDDAY SESSION TOURS: 12:15–1:15 P.M.

Guided Tour of Back to School in Babylonia
Institute for the Study of Ancient Cultures
Susanne Paulus

Guided Tour of Scribes in Mesopotamia
Institute for the Study of Ancient Cultures
Ryan Winters

Guided Tour of Freedom’s Muse
Logan Center for the Arts
Bill Michel

Guided Tour of Gelitin’s Democratic Sculpture 7
Neubauer Collegium
Dieter Roelstraete

Guided Tours of Exhibitions at the Smart Museum of Art:
“Ruth Duckworth: Life as a Unity,” Poetry Is Everything,” and “Calling on the Past”
Smart Museum of Art
Kirsten Lopez and May Peterson
SESSION 2: 1:30–2:30 P.M.

**PRESENTATIONS**

- Andrei Pop
  Can Aliens Teach Us about Alienation?

- Srikanth “Chicu” Reddy*, Suzanne Buffam, Rachel DeWoskin, Julie Iromuanya, Vu Tran, Ryan Van Meter
  Information as a Blessing and a Curse

- Anastasia Giannakidou
  Language and Thought, Truth and Deception

- Paola Iovene
  Precarious Labor in China’s Literary Nonfiction

- Daisy Delogu**
  The Afterlives of Joan of Arc

- Jonathan Lear and Matthew Boyle
  The Approach to Ethics of Ludwig Wittgenstein

- Benjamin Callard
  The Role of Perspective in Ethics

**TOURS**

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** = In-person and live-streamed session available on Zoom
SESSION 3: 3-4 P.M.

Stacy Hardy
Breathing Machines Across Worlds

Verónica Moraga and Nicole Burgoyne
Community Amplified: Harnessing the Collective Potential for Lasting Impact

Adam Flowers
How Not to Read the Qur’ān

Kağan Arık
Plucking and Bowing: Developing Two Instrument Types in Central Asia

Jennifer Iverson
Porous Instruments: Synthesizers and the Circulation of Cultural Value

Sarah Nooter**
Queering the Classics: When Poetry Looks Back

Claudia Brittenham
Representing Place in Mesoamerica Codices and Maps

** = In-person and live-streamed session available on Zoom
What does humanities scholarship look like? What are humanities scholars working on right now?

Humanities Day, an annual tradition at the University of Chicago since 1980, celebrates the humanities with free discussions, tours, performances, and lectures featuring the latest research of our award-winning scholars. Each year’s programming reflects the diverse research interests of the faculty in the Division of the Humanities and represents the broad range of humanities scholarship in the arts, music, literature, philosophy, languages and linguistics.

Humanities Day is a project of the Division of the Humanities, one of the University’s five graduate divisions. With 200+ faculty members, 100+ staff members, and about 500 graduate students housed within 20+ departments, centers, institutes, and programs, the Division of the Humanities supports innovative humanistic research through vigorous inquiry. Learn more about our faculty, staff, students, and graduate programs at humanities.uchicago.edu.

AROUND CAMPUS

During Humanities Day, we encourage you to visit some of the museums, galleries, and affiliated events on campus. Please note that the hours listed below are for Saturdays. Exhibition hours may be different for other days of the week.

Institute for the Study of Ancient Cultures
1155 E. 58th Street
Fall Exhibitions:
- Back to School in Babylonia and Scribes in Mesopotamia
  Open 10 A.M. TO 4 P.M.
  Suggested admission fee of $10

Logan Center Exhibitions
915 E. 60th Street
Fall Exhibitions:
- Freedom’s Muse
  Open 9 A.M. TO 9 P.M.
  Free admission

Neubauer Collegium Exhibitions
5701 S.ewoodlawn Avenue
Fall Exhibition:
- Gelitin: Democratic Sculpture 7
  Open 9 A.M. to 4 P.M.
  Free admission

Renaissance Society
5811 S. Ellis Avenue
Fall Exhibition:
- Adonis River
  Open 10 A.M. to 6 P.M.
  Free admission

Smart Museum of Art
5550 S. Greenwood Avenue
Fall Exhibitions:
- Ruth Duckworth: Life as a Unity, Poetry Is Everything and Calling on the Past
  Open 10 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.
  Free admission

HUMANITIES DAY HEADQUARTERS

Stuart Hall is the headquarters for Humanities Day. The building is located on the east side of Harper Quadrangle at 5835 South Greenwood Avenue. On-site staff can answer your questions and check your registration information.

PARKING

Street parking is available throughout campus and Hyde Park.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Visit humanitiesday.uchicago.edu or contact humanities@uchicago.edu to register. We encourage you to register early as seats are limited for in-person sessions.

If you require special assistance to participate, please contact us at humanities@uchicago.edu.

For more information on health and safety, parking, registration, and more, please visit us at humanitiesday.uchicago.edu.