NOVEMBER 2022

CURA PSYCHOLOGIA
Cultivating a More Virtuous Psychological Science

First Convening — Boston College, November 10–12, 2022

BOSTON COLLEGE
Carolyn A. and Peter S. Lynch
School of Education and Human Development
DEAR FACULTY AMBASSADORS,

It is with excitement and gratitude that we welcome you to Boston College for the first of our six Cura Psychologia on-campus convenings. Over the next three years, we hope to get to know you more intimately and look forward to learning with and from you as we work to reorient the practice of psychological science at our Jesuit Catholic universities toward considerations of moral, intellectual, and civic character.

Each of the participants gathered here shares a commitment to community, ethical formation, and interdisciplinary exchange. Although we come from various fields, backgrounds, and research interests, we are united by the belief that, in order for psychology to reach its full potential as a means of not only informing our understanding of the human condition but also aiding in the development of strong moral, intellectual, and civic character, the disciplines of theology and philosophy must become essential aspects of psychological education and training. To that end, we have brought together this community of scholars in order to begin the work of expanding psychology’s capacity to speak about the human condition with ethics as a first principle.

The gifts and insights that each of you brings to this project will be invaluable in the years to come. We could not be more appreciative of your involvement or enthusiastic about the opportunity to work with you.

Looking forward to the many good things ahead.

— David and Matt

“I do not suggest that we become novelists or philosophers . . . Rather, I wish we would recognize the place of psychology at the intersection of all disciplines that deal with the human mind and the behavior of living things.”

— JAMES H. KORN, “PSYCHOLOGY AS HUMANITY”
ARS VITAE
Psychological Humanities and Ethics Lecture
Thursday evening, November 10 at 7 p.m.
Murray Room in the Yawkey Center

This lecture explores the concept of *ars vitae*, Latin for the art of living. It calls on ancient ways of thinking about the enduring question of how to live in order to imagine new ways of addressing our challenges. Evidence is abundant that modern culture falls short in many ways in providing the resources to live lives of deepest spiritual enrichment. Many actively seek more meaningful approaches to the challenges we face, while some have tragically all but given up. Frustration with superficial messages in everything from advertising to simplistic self-help offerings has helped fuel renewed interest in wisdom traditions extending back to antiquity. In order to assess which of these might be of greater and which might be of lesser help as an alternative, we get deeply into what specifically is lacking in dominant approaches today and what we could do differently.

**Speaker: Elisabeth Lasch-Quinn**

Elisabeth Lasch-Quinn is Professor of History at Syracuse University and Senior Fellow at the Institute for Advanced Studies in Culture at the University of Virginia.

**Respondents:**
- Frank Richardson, University of Texas at Austin
- Donna Orange, New York University
- Jeanette Rodriguez, Seattle University
CONVENING AGENDA

Location: 2101 Commonwealth Avenue

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11

8:30 – 9:00 a.m.  Breakfast and Informal Time
9:00 – 9:15 a.m.  Invocation – Fr. Jack Butler
                  Vice President, Mission and Ministry
9:15 – 10:45 a.m. Welcome and Project Vision
10:45 – 11:00 a.m. Break
11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. Our Disciplines and their Discontents
12:15 – 1:30 p.m.  Lunch
1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Faculty Trios
3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Reflections and Wanderings
4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. Cocktail Reception
5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Dinner

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12

8:30 – 9:00 a.m.  Breakfast Together
9:00 – 10:30 a.m. Project Framing and Details
10:30 – 10:45 a.m. Break
10:45 – 12:00 p.m. Path Ahead
MEET OUR FACULTY AMBASSADORS

BOSTON COLLEGE

SCOTT SEIDER
PSYCHOLOGY

ELISA MAGRI
PHILOSOPHY

JOSHUA SNYDER
THEOLOGY

COLLEGE OF THE HOLY CROSS

MARK FREEMAN
PSYCHOLOGY

FRANCES MAUGHAN BROWN
PHILOSOPHY

PETER FRITZ
THEOLOGY

FORDHAM UNIVERSITY

DAVID MARCOTTE
PSYCHOLOGY

LAURA SPECKER
PHILOSOPHY

LEO GUARDADO
THEOLOGY

CURA PSYCHOLOGIA
CORE CURA PSYCHOLOGIA
PERSONNEL

DAVID GOODMAN
PROJECT LEAD

David Goodman is an associate dean at the Lynch School of Education and Human Development, the Director of the newly launching Center for Psychological Humanities and Ethics, and serves on the faculty in three Boston College departments: Counseling, Developmental, and Educational Psychology; Philosophy; and Formative Education.

MATTHEW CLEMENTE
RESEARCH FELLOW

Matthew Clemente is a research fellow in the Center for Psychological Humanities and Ethics at Boston College and the Assistant Editor of the Journal for Continental Philosophy of Religion.

DERRICK HIGGS
PROJECT ADMINISTRATOR

Derrick Higgs is a graduate student in the School of Theology and Ministry and an applicant to the School of Social Work to pursue a dual Master’s in Theology & Ministry and Clinical Social work.

HALEIGH CREAMER
GRADUATE ASSISTANT

Haleigh Creamer is a second year graduate student in the Lynch School of Education and Human Development pursuing her Master’s in Mental Health Counseling.
This project was made possible through the support of Grant 62632 from the John Templeton Foundation. The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the John Templeton Foundation.