

International Conference and Student Seminars

Virtue and Democratic Resilience

Listening to the Voice of Ethics in a Broken Polis

May 25 – 30, 2026 / Venice International University, Island of San Servolo, Venice



The Seminars will explore the relationship between civic virtue, character formation, and public ethics at a time when liberal democracies face increasing pressure from autocratic actors. They will consider how virtuous leaders and communities emerge, which social mechanisms foster ethical behavior, and how religious and secular traditions shape character.

R. Scott Appleby, Giancarlo Bosetti, Massimo Borghesi, Luigino Bruni, Marina Calloni, Michele Cento, Fadi Chehadé, Monica Cohen, Catherine Cornille, Fadi Daou, Wael Farouq, Pasquale Ferrara, Fulvia Giachetti, Giavana Jones, Jonathan Laurence, Mauro Magatti, Eugenio Mazzarella, Hans-Peter Müller, Fabio Petito, Giorgia Serughetti, Uriel Simonsohn, Alessandra Smerilli, Isaiah Sterrett, Umberto Vattani.

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