

The Challenges of Hostile Epistemology

DATES
June 18–19, 2026

LOCATION
Faculty of Humanities & Social
Sciences, Rijeka

HOST
University of Rijeka

Program

02 · SCHEDULE

Two days of keynote lectures, talks, and discussion.
All sessions take place at the Faculty of Humanities
and Social Sciences.

DAY 01 Thursday

June 18, 2026

09:00 – 10:30	KEYNOTE LECTURE The Real Problem of Civility Robert Talisse · Vanderbilt University Moderated by José Luis Martí · Pompeu Fabra University
10:30 – 11:00	COFFEE BREAK
11:00 – 11:50	TALK Science Denial, Epistemic Obstruction, and the Limits of Democratic Self-Correction Snježana Prijic-Samaržija & Andrea Mešanović · University of Rijeka
12:00 – 12:50	TALK The Trunked Debate on Democratic Crises Luis Loia · Universidade Católica Portuguesa
13:00 – 14:30	LUNCH BREAK
14:30 – 15:20	TALK Weak Ties, Civic Solitude and the Social Foundations of Democratic Citizenship Ivan Cerovac · University of Rijeka
15:30 – 16:20	TALK Why Should I Trust Anyone? Holger Kiik · Tallinn University
16:20 – 16:40	COFFEE BREAK
16:40 – 17:30	TALK Performative Contingency and Affective Polarization Patrizia Pedrini & Jacopo Marchetti · University of Geneva · University of Pisa
17:40 – 18:30	TALK Mandevillian Wisdom Makes Better Voters Sergiu Spatan · Technische Universität Dresden
18:30 – 18:50	COFFEE BREAK
18:50 – 19:40	TALK Journalism, Institutional Responsibility, Epistemological Skills Elvio Baccharini · University of Rijeka
20:00	DINNER

09:00 – 10:30	KEYNOTE LECTURE Liberalism and the Many Faces of Conspiracy Theorizing Chris Ranalli · VU University Amsterdam
10:30 – 11:00	COFFEE BREAK
11:00 – 11:40	TALK Hostile Environments: Testimony in the Internet Age Hana Samaržija · University of Rijeka
11:50 – 12:30	TALK Whose Judgements? Which Rationales? Vojko Strahovnik & Matea Centa Strahovnik · University of Ljubljana
12:30 – 14:00	LUNCH BREAK
14:00 – 14:40	TALK Resisting Hostile Epistemology Towards International Students in the US Diana Daly · University of Arizona
14:50 – 15:30	TALK Epistemology of Public Discourse: A Housekeeping Marko Luka Zubčić · Institute of Philosophy, Zagreb
15:30 – 15:50	COFFEE BREAK
15:50 – 16:30	TALK Arguments Against Digital Epistocracy Ivan Mladenović · University of Belgrade
16:40 – 17:20	TALK Generative AI, Disinformation, and the Transformation of Epistemic Trust Zuzana Rybarikova · University of Ostrava
17:20 – 17:40	COFFEE BREAK
17:40 – 18:20	TALK Fractured Reality and Hostile Epistemology: Algorithmic Punctuation in Democratic Life Antonio Scala · Institute for Complex Systems, National Research Council of Italy
18:30 – 19:10	TALK Towards a Critical Vice Epistemology Fang Yiyang · National University of Singapore

Practical information

03 · VISIT

VENUE	PROJECT	GRANT
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Sveučilišna avenija 4, Rijeka	Epistemic Democracy in a Digital Era	IP-2024-05-4113

Contact and Organizers

04 · ORGANIZERS

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Participants present thirty-five-minute lectures with fifteen minutes of discussion on Thursday, and thirty-minute lectures with ten minutes of dialogue on Friday.

The Challenges of Hostile Epistemology – Democracy, Media, and Liberal Society

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