

*EXPRESSING HUMANIST
VALUES IN CHANGING
POLITICAL CLIMATES*



EHP

SYMPOSIUM

ANTWERPEN // 25 OCTOBER 2024



Expressing Humanist values in challenging political times

Steering your humanist professionalism through choppy waters

Throughout Europe we are currently facing increasing polarisation and false information not only in political debate but in everyday life. As a result civil trust is in decline and this trend has a profound impact upon the practice, the mode of dialogue and how we express humanist values in our societies.

How can we strengthen and enhance dialogue and democratic skills across Europe? What is at stake?

Through lectures and workshops we will investigate and analyse and put into practice an array of the methodological ideas that support an enhanced dialogue. All sessions will provide examples and tools for our work amongst humanist celebrants, educators and chaplains.

● **PRACTICAL INFORMATION**

DATE

Friday 25th of October 2024

LOCATION

Hof van Liere, Prinsstraat 13, 2000 Antwerp, Belgium

COST

Included in fee: Programme, coffee/tea, lunch and a drink.
Early bird discount // Before 14th of September: €60,-
After 14th of September: €80,-.

REGISTRATION

[Registration form](#)

LODGING

Lodging is individual. We recommend [The Theater Hotel](#).



PROGRAMME

FRIDAY

10:30

OPENING REMARKS

TALE PLEYM

Chair of the European Humanist Professionals

RADICALIZATION AND POLARIZATION

KARIN HEREMANS

COFFEE BREAK

PHILOSOPHY BEHIND BARS

HANS SCHEPER

12:30

LUNCH BREAK

13:30

A PIVOTAL CONVERSATION

JODIE RAS

14:30

DEMOCRACY WORKS!

MENNO HURENKAMP

15:30

COFFEE BREAK

16:00

IN SEARCH OF DEMOCRACY 3.0

THE NEW HEROES

17:30

MEET & DRINKS

SATURDAY // OPTIONAL

10:00

PLANTIN MORETUS MUSEUM

GROUP EXCURSION

SPEAKERS AND FACILITATORS



RADICALIZATION AND POLARIZATION

KARIN HEREMANS

***Committed director of the GO!
Royal Athenaeum in Antwerp.***

Karin Heremans has focused her entire career on education, 'learning to live together' and culture. She started her career as a teacher of Italian and French at the! Kunsthumaniora in Antwerp. There she specialized in creative language and literature education and developed various cross-curricular artistic projects.

From there, extensive expertise has been developed in diversity management and prevention of radicalization and polarization. Since 2015, responsible for the Policy for the Prevention of Radicalization and Polarization for the GO! , education of the Flemish Community and for five years (2015-2020) working group leader for the education working group of the RAN, Radicalization Awareness Network Europe.

Certified trainer Polarization Management (Bart Brandsma) & the trauma-sensitive school (Leony Coppens)

Various publications to prevent radicalization & polarization, including My Little Jihad, shared values for society and recently in collaboration with Ceapire and the European Foundation for democracy



PHILOSOPHY BEHIND BARS

HANS SCHEPER

Head of humanist chaplaincy for the Dutch ministry of Justice

Philosophy can be a way to be free behind bars, in weekly sessions prisoners (sometimes sentenced for long stay) find some freespace through Hannah Arendt or Michel Montaigne. Hans Scheper has initiated a practical method 'humanism & philosophy' that is being used in Dutch prisons.



A PIVOTAL CONVERSATION

JODIE RAS

Humanist Chaplain in Dutch prison

How to have a constructive conversation about charged and potentially polarizing topics

The Pivotal Conversation is a conversation method that provides tools for safe and constructive conversations about emotionally charged topics.

Unlike a discussion or debate, this methodology encourages participants to first focus their attention inward and investigate which emotions the topic evokes. Emotions can be seen as moral indicators as they send an important signal about which value is under pressure. The challenge is to identify these values and then, together with other participants, arrive at a nuanced assessment of how to express these values in action options. This so that actions are colored by emotion, but ultimately value-based. Value-based, so that these actions consciously express everyone's philosophy of life.



DEMOCRACY WORKS!

MENNO HURENKAMP

Professor of democracy at the university of humanistic studies in Utrecht, the Netherlands

Menno Hurenkamp was appointed in 2024 as professor at the University of Humanistics on Democracy. He will speak about democratic poverty, false friends, and mutuality. Where is the potential to revitalize our democracy? Because, though we tend to forget: democracy works!



PERFORMANCE

THE NEW HEROES

In Search of Democracy 3.0

The New Heroes, ARSENAAL and Het Zuidelijk Toneel set off for a journey through Europe with their new project: *In Search of Democracy 3.0.*

A unique and dynamic performance called “A democratic event for almost everyone”. In a pleasant and safe setting, The New Heroes will take you on a journey into the history, present and future of democracy. They not only provide an analysis but also actively search for new possibilities and ideas. So be prepared to be stimulated. The combination of theater, music and direct dialogue creates an open and accessible atmosphere where you can choose whether you want to participate in the research or whether you prefer to look at what is thought and decided.

The performance is included in the Symposium fee, but tickets for external participants can be purchased [online](#). More information on In Search of Democracy 3.0 is found [here](#).