



Under Pressure: Character, Certainty, Conspiracy

How people change (or fail to) under pressure, false certainty and misinformation.

Institute for Ethics & Society workshop | Thursday 3 September 2026

In an age of outrage, algorithms and information overload, how do we become people of resilient character, humble conviction and wise discernment? Drawing on several funded research projects in Europe and Australia, this workshop explores how pressure exposes the heart and yet shapes the self, how self-righteousness quietly corrupts our capacity for knowledge and understanding of self and others, and how conspiracy theories and AI-generated “slopaganda” shape the way we see the world.

The IES is pleased to host this event on the occasion of Laura Candiottio's visit to Sydney. Laura is Associate Professor of Moral Philosophy (Universities of Cagliari and Pardubice). She currently leads two research projects, including 'Vicious Epistemic Cultures' on the ethics of knowledge with a specific focus on emotional friction in revision responsibility, funded by the Czech Science Foundation. Laura is currently working on a monograph, *Emotional Friction*, and a co-edited collection entitled *Vice Epistemology and the Philosophy of Emotions* (Routledge).

DETAILS

When:

Thursday 3 September 2026
10:00 am – 4:30 pm

Where:

The University of Notre Dame Australia,
NDS23/102 (Wilcox Mofflin Building)
46-52 Mountain Street Ultimo, NSW, 2007

Or online via Teams

Enquiries and RSVP:

John Lippitt (john.lippitt@nd.edu.au)

SPEAKERS



Laura Candiottio
(Cagliari and Pardubice)
'Character revision under duress'



John Lippitt
(Notre Dame IES and Pardubice)
'Failures of receptivity: self-righteousness as a stealthy vice'



Adam Piovarchy
(Notre Dame IES)
'Conspiracy theories are infohazards'



Mark Alfano
(Macquarie)
'Slopaganda'



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Combating Self-Righteousness:
a Vice of the Digital Age
ERC CZ



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