

[DIV24] Explore the concept and challenges of Ars Vitae, the art of living, with Elisabeth Lasch-Quinn

Ars Vitae: A Dialogue on Psychological Humanities

A Professional & Continuing Education Lecture

DATE:	Thursday, November 10, 2022
TIME:	7:00 PM - 9:30 PM
LOCATION:	Hybrid Event: Murray Room, Yawkey Athletic Center at Boston College & Online via Zoom

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 deeply explore what specifically is lacking in dominant approaches today and what we could do differently.

Together, we will discuss the different approaches to the art of living taken by ancient schools of philosophical thought (Stoicism, Epicureanism, Platonism). Identifying their key components allows us to observe a resurgence of these ancient philosophies today, as people seek more helpful approaches. The lecture provides a critique of forms of self-centeredness dominant today and an argument for a new inwardness—the cultivation of inner life—drawing on ancient wisdom, with particular attention to the insights of Plato and the Neoplatonists. We will end in contemplation of the fullest ramifications of the prioritization of goodness in our endeavors and in recognition of the good as a basic need of the human person.

[Register Here](#)

Presenter



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. She has received numerous grants and awards, including a Fulbright fellowship at the University of Rome, Italy.

Elisabeth Lasch-Quinn will be joined by respondents ***Dr. Frank Richardson, Dr. Donna Orange, & Dr Jeanette Rodriguez.***

[Contact PCE](#)
