

PROGRAMME  
EIGHTH INTERNATIONAL ALDOUS HUXLEY SYMPOSIUM

**Theme:** Aldous Huxley in Italy: Rest Cure or/and Cultural Challenge?

**Convenors:** The International Aldous Huxley Society (AHS) and the Centre for Aldous Huxley Studies (CAHS) [<https://www.uni-muenster.de/Anglistik/Huxley/>]

**Venue:** Centro Studi Ricerca e Formazione CISL, Via della Piazzuola, 71, 50133, Firenze [<https://www.centrostudi.cisl.it/>]

**Dates:** 22–24 October 2025

TUESDAY, 21 OCTOBER 2025

**18:00–20:00** Conference Warming (arranged by the International Aldous Huxley Society) at the Centro Studi CISL

WEDNESDAY, 22 OCTOBER 2025

ALDOUS HUXLEY IN ITALY

**Registration: 8:30–9:15**

**9:15–9:30** *Opening Addresses*

Dr Piero Ferrucci, Aldous and Laura Huxley Literary Trust  
Profs Alice Cheylan and Alain Morello, University of Toulon  
Prof Bernfried Nügel, Chairman of the International Aldous Huxley Society

**9:30–10:30**

Chair: Bernfried Nügel

*Keynote Lecture:*

**James Sexton:** “Aldous Huxley and Italy”

**10:30–11:00** *Break* (coffee and snacks)

**11:00–13:00**

Chair: Gerd Rohmann

**Alice Cheylan/André-Alain Morello:** “Aldous Huxley and the Revelation of Italy”

**Chiara Sciarrino:** “Music, Counterpoint, and Narrative Complexity in Aldous Huxley’s *Point Counter Point*”

**Grzegorz Moroz:** “Aldous Huxley, Italy and the Travel-Writing Discourse”

**13:00–14:30** *Lunch Break*

**14:30–16:00**

Chair: Gerhard Wagner

**Andrija Matić:** “‘A Man in an Iron Mask’: Evocations of Italy in Aldous Huxley’s Short Fiction”

**Gerry Kimber:** “‘Bitterness and Hostility’: Huxley and Murry at War”

**Lawrence Davidson:** “Aldous Huxley: From Italy to France to *Brave New World*”

**16:00–16:30** *Break* (coffee and snacks)

**16:30–17:30**

Chair: David Dunaway

**Gerd Rohmann:** “Italy, Montaigne, and Huxley’s Essayism”

**Tobias Harris:** “The Posthuman Huxley of *Proper Studies*: Posthumanities and Huxley’s Italian Essays”

## THURSDAY, 23 OCTOBER 2025

**Registration: 9:00–9:30**

### ALDOUS HUXLEY: RE- AND PERCEPTION

**9:30–13:00**

**HUXLEY FORUM: THE RECEPTION OF ALDOUS HUXLEY** (arranged by Uwe Rasch)

**9:30–10:30**

*Keynote Lecture:*

**Robin Hull:** “The Aldous Huxley Centre Zürich—Reaching Out to Younger Readers”

**10:30–11:00** *Break* (coffee and snacks)

**11:00–13:00**

**Irina Golovacheva:** “Aldous Huxley as the ‘People’s Enemy’: The Bomb and Post-War Soviet Propaganda”

**Jesús Isaías Gómez López:** “The Reception of Aldous Huxley in Spain”

**Miguel Afonso Martini:** “Sage, Guru and Teacher: Mysticism, Religion and Spirituality in Aldous Huxley Studies”

**Uwe Rasch:** “*Island*—A Curated Novel”

**13:00–14:30** *Lunch Break*

**14:30–16:00**

Chair: Robin Hull

**David Dunaway:** “Atropine—Aldous Huxley’s First Psychedelic?”

**Filip Świerczyński:** “Anesthetising Humankind: Aldous Huxley, José M. R. Delgado, and the Psychocivilised Society”

**Dana Sawyer:** “Support for Huxley’s ‘Unitive Knowledge’ and Its Value as Found in Current Research with Psychedelics”

**16:00–16:30** *Break* (coffee and snacks)

**16:30–17:30**

Chair: Uwe Rasch

**Erika Dyck/James W. Spisak:** “Texts and Contexts: A New Look at *The Doors of Perception*”

## FRIDAY, 24 OCTOBER 2025

**Registration: 9:00–9:30**

## VARIA

**9:30–10:30**

Chair: Bernfried Nugel

*Keynote Lecture:*

**Jerome Meckier:** “Three Little Words: Fixity, Mutability, Stability—Butler, Orwell and Huxley”

**10:30–11:00** *Break* (coffee and snacks)

**11:00–13:00**

Chair: Alice Cheylan

**Emily Reed:** “Beautiful words don’t always mean what they ought to mean’: Language, Meaning and Artifice in the Works of Aldous Huxley 1921–1927”

**Heike Sieger:** “Contralto Singers: Huxley’s Secret Humorous Obsession”

**Bernfried Nugel:** “The Significance of the Concert Pitch in *Island*”

**13:00–14:30** *Lunch Break*

**14:30–16:00**

Chair: Gerhard Wagner

**Sujatha Chandarlapaty:** “The Literary and Psychological Imaginations of Aldous Huxley”

**Zoe Leoni:** “The Strategy of the Jesuits in the Political Thought of Aldous Huxley”

**Raj Chandarlapaty:** “Aldous Huxley and the Boundaries of Consciousness”

**16:00–16:30** *Break* (coffee and snacks)

**16:30–17:30**

Chair: Dana Sawyer

**Uwe Rasch:** “40 Years On: Postman, Huxley and *Amusing Ourselves to Death*”

**Robin Hull:** “Of Amphibians, Jungian Swamps and Freudian Graffiti—Huxley and Psychology”

**20:00–22:00** Farewell Dinner [location to be announced]

## SATURDAY, 25 OCTOBER 2025

### COACH TRIP TO SANSEPOLCRO

**10:00–17:00**

**10:00** Departure from the Centro Studi CISL

**12:00** Arrival at Museo Civico Sansepolcro

**15:00** Departure for Centro Studi

**17:00** Return

Participants are requested to register on the first day of the conference; there will be no charge, as all expenses are covered by the AHS.