

David Livingstone Smith

UNDERSTANDING DEHUMANIZATION TO RESIST DEHUMANIZATION

Join us for a lecture and conversation! Dr. David Livingstone Smith theorizes that to dehumanize people is to literally conceive of them as monstrous creatures, not merely lesser humans or animals. He argues that this is so even if, paradoxically, the same people also conceive of them as human.

Once we identify causes of dehumanization — including sociohistorical factors, powerful propaganda that spreads fear of evil, our very human psychological vulnerabilities to manipulation, and the effects of racialized hierarchies — we can better resist it. To begin, we can confront our psychological vulnerabilities, dispute racialization, learn relevant history, and protect freedom of the press.

**January 28, 2026
Wednesday 6 pm
Brookens Auditorium**

**Co-sponsor:
UIS Philosophy &
Society Series**

**Series organizer:
Dr. Roxanne Marie Kurtz**



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