HJ International Graduate School for Peace and Public Leadership Newsletter

Thomas G. Walsh
October 27, 2026

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October 27, Volume III, Number 35



Join us for an engaging **Faculty Roundtable** on **October 29 at 7:00 pm New York Time**, hosted by **Dr. Thomas Walsh**, featuring **Dr. Keisuke Noda**, following his September presentation at the 25th World Congress of the Viktor Frankl Institute. The discussion will explore life's limitations, our capacity for new beginnings, and our responsibility to respond to life's challenges, inviting participants to reflect on what we are called to do in the present moment.

Register Here!

Learn more about Dr. Noda's philosophy series, *Encounters*, at www.encounters-philosophy.org.



HJI invites current students to participate in the **2026 Annual Research Day** and **showcase** their **academic research!**

This is a great opportunity to share your work, highlight your ideas, and contribute to HJI's academic community. Students participating in the competitive category will have the opportunity to win a $500 award for first place, $250 for second place, and $100 for third place!

Watch the Overview Video Here!

Submission Deadline: Sunday, November 22. ***Learn More and Register***

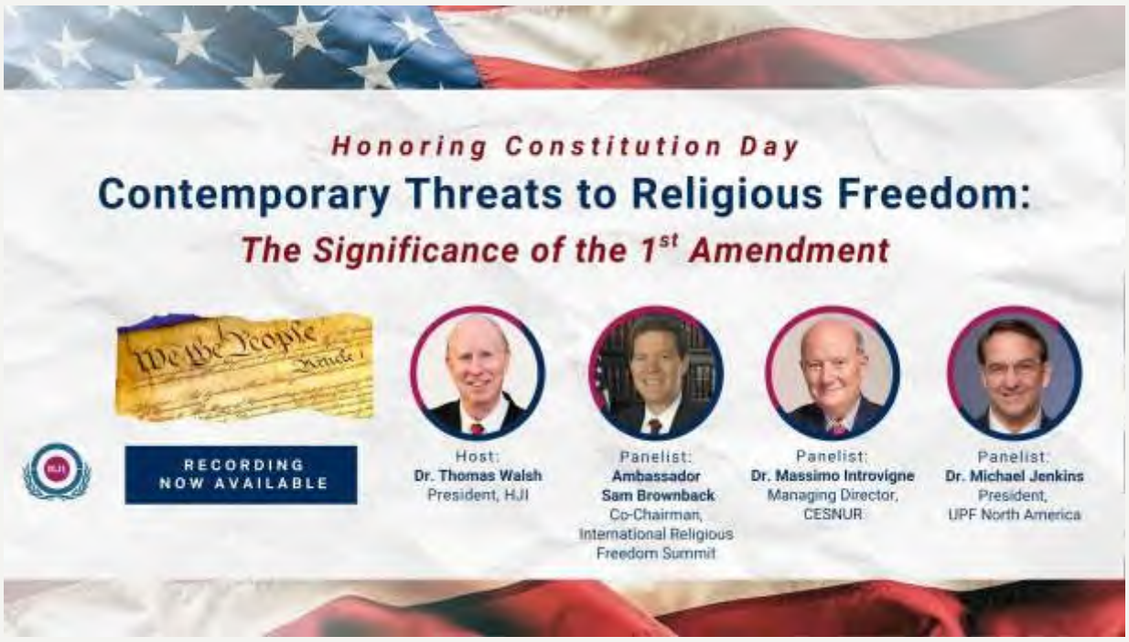


Barry Geller | Doctoral Candidate | USA

What inspired you to apply to HJI and your program?
I believe HJI can help me to develop the Ambassador for Peace Initiative of Universal Peace Federation, an organization for which I serve as the Northeast regional director, even in a small way. I also want to continue learning for the rest of my life.

If applicable, share about the benefits of your online learning experience.
It is very convenient and effective to learn this way

What do you enjoy in your free time?
Skiing, Golf, Korean dramas



HJI hosted a successful panel discussion, **Contemporary Threats to Religious Freedom: The Significance of the First Amendment**, in honor of **Constitution Day** on Thursday, September 24, 2026.

Hosted by HJI President Dr. Thomas Walsh, the event featured Ambassador Sam Brownback, Dr. Massimo Introvigne, and Dr. Michael Jenkins, who shared valuable perspectives on current challenges to religious freedom and the importance of safeguarding First Amendment rights.

The recording is now available! Watch this timely and thought-provoking conversation on religious freedom and its significance today.

Click here to watch the recording.





As part of **HJI's 51st anniversary celebration, members of the Class of 1978**—Tyler Hendricks, Farley Jones, Andrew Wilson, Daniel Davies, and Tamie Wilenchik—came together on Tuesday, September 29, 2026, for a special conversation reflecting on the school's early years. The event offered a wonderful opportunity to revisit cherished memories, share personal experiences, and celebrate HJI's rich history and legacy.

Missed the event? The recording is now available, as well as a Commemorative video of the Class of 1978. We invite you to watch and enjoy this special conversation.

Click here to watch the recording.

For more information about HJI, email admissions@hji.edu

To apply to HJI click here

STAY CONNECTED

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Encounters

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What does it mean to be human?

Season I: What does it mean to be human in the age of AI

Encounters is a philosophical project that asks what it means to be human at a time when technology, power, and artificial intelligence increasingly shape our judgment, choices, and ways of living.

Visitors new to the project may begin with the 〈Trailer〉 or start directly with 〈Episode 1〉 .

Through short, carefully constructed episodes, the project connects philosophy with the realities we are already living in—how we decide, how we follow, how we trust, and how we make sense of the world.

What matters here is not the accumulation of knowledge, but learning to think for oneself.
Small moments of insight can, at times, become clues for how to live.

This project does not aim to provide definitive answers.
Public episodes are spaces for beginning to think about shared human conditions.
Seminars are spaces for taking more time to reflect, interpret, and deepen those questions.

All episodes can be browsed through the 〈Episodes〉 menu on the top pull-down menu.

Here, philosophy is presented not as a system to be mastered, but as a living dialogue—unfolding through stories, questions, and encounters that invite reflection rather than conclusions.

Encounters unfolds across three seasons:

Season I — What does it mean to be human in the age of AI

Season II — Meaning of Life

Season III — Religion and the Question of Meaning

For an overview of the project, please see 〈About〉 .

Visitors new to the project may begin with the 〈Trailer〉 or start directly with 〈Episode 1〉 .
A full list of episodes can be found under 〈Episodes〉 .

Stay Informed

Receive occasional updates when a new episode or seminar becomes available.
You may unsubscribe at any time.

Email Address

Subscribe

We respect your privacy.

Annual Research Day 2026



PARTICIPANTS

Watch the Overview Video Here!

We are excited to invite current HJI students to participate in our **5th Annual Research Day!** Show your work by submitting an **Academic Poster**—a visual showcase of your research.
Submissions will be featured on the HJI website, and awards will be presented across two categories during our live program:

Categories and Awards:

- **Current HJI Students Competitive Category (Awards: $500 for first, $250 for second, $100 for third):** Open to HJI students currently enrolled in one of our HJI programs.
- **Full-Time and Current Part-Time Faculty Non-Competitive Category (Certificate of Excellence):** Awarded by HJI's Alpha Nu Pi Chapter of Theta Alpha Kappa (the National Religious Studies Honor Society). Open to full-time and current part-time faculty.

Key Dates:

- **Submission Deadline:** Sunday, November 22 by 11:59 PM New York Time (submitted via Canvas for judge review)
- **Live Zoom Celebration and Awards:** Thursday, December 3 at 7:00 PM New York Time. Join to celebrate the

scholarly achievements of our community and reveal this year's winners. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend!

SUBMISSIONS PROCEDURE

How to Participate: VIDEO INSTRUCTIONS

1. **Register:** Complete the registration form at the bottom of this page.
2. **Submit:** You will receive an invitation to join Canvas, where you can upload your poster submission. Your submission on Canvas will consist of 1) an academic poster and 2) a 5-10 minute recorded video presentation explaining your poster.

1. Academic Poster

a. Poster Specifications (Virtual poster)
• Must be portrait orientation and 24" width x 36" height (or a 2:3 aspect ratio)
• May be submitted as a PowerPoint, PDF, PNG, JPG, or other file types, provided that you are able to screen share the poster properly during the recording of your presentation
• If you choose to use a PowerPoint, a sample template can be downloaded here (the poster does not need to follow this exact layout, but should include all categories listed below in "b. Poster Contents").

b. Poster Contents
• An Introduction or Abstract
• A research question or questions
• A description of methodologies/research used in conducting the research
• A description of findings so far and conclusions that can be drawn from said findings
• List of major sources used in research
• Publications or planned publications resulting from research
• Acknowledgements of colleagues who contributed to the project
• At least one image or graphic
• See Sample Poster

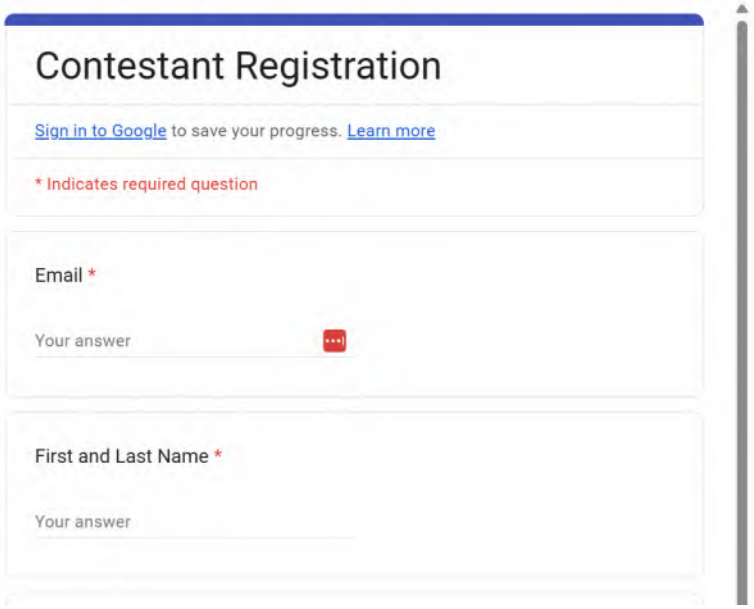
2. A recorded video presentation that includes an explanation of the poster
• Poster should be displayed/screen shared during the presentation
• Video should not be longer than 10 minutes
• See Sample video

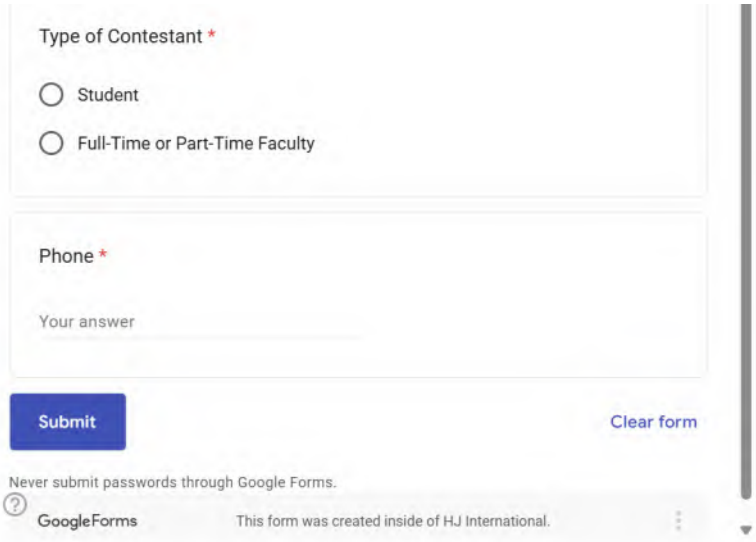
SCORING RUBRIC

The following rubric will be used to score posters and presentations: Scoring Rubric

REGISTRATION

Please contact info@hji.edu if you have any questions. We look forward to assisting you.





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PEACE AND PUBLIC LEADERSHIP

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