About the Illume Speaker Series

The College of Arts and Sciences is the liberal arts heart of the University of San Diego. Our students and faculty exemplify the power, vitality and value of a liberal arts and sciences education every day. To champion the tradition and future of the ars liberales, we have created the Illume Speaker Series featuring our own renowned faculty scholars, invited thought-leaders and prominent public figures to advance the liberal arts on our campus and inspire lifelong learning in our surrounding communities.

In this lecture Elizabeth Minnich will address themes in her recent, critically-acclaimed book, The Evil of Banality: On the Life and Death Importance of Thinking. In this work, Minnich confronts the causes of such evils as genocide and deadly economic exploitation, elaborating on the work of her teacher Hannah Arendt to argue that the necessary condition of evildoing is thoughtlessness. Minnich’s work functions as an incisive treatment of the nature of evil, an inspiring account of goodness, and a clarion call for the importance of thinking well.

Elizabeth Minnich, PhD, is senior scholar for the Association of American Colleges & Universities and professor of moral philosophy at Queens College.