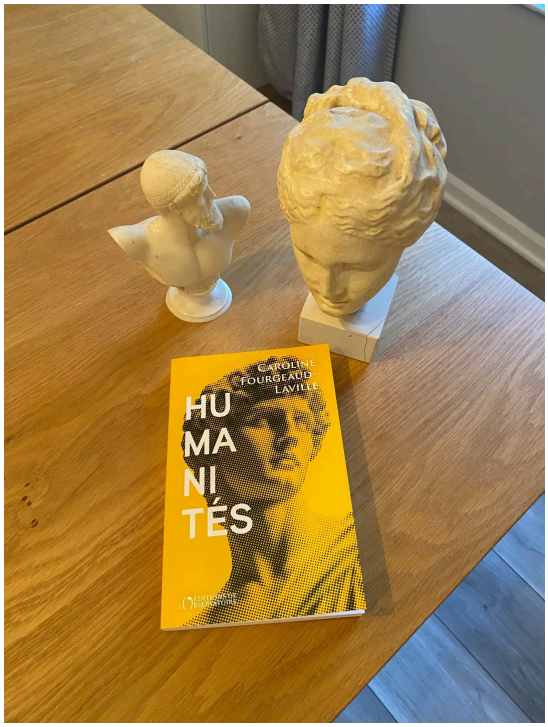
REVIEW

Humanités, by Caroline Fourgeaud-Laville

by Benjamin Hoffmann

July 2, 2026 · On *Humanités*

A lively and fascinating plea for the enduring relevance of the humanities.



💡 Spotlight on *Humanités* by Caroline Fourgeaud-Laville, published by Éditions de l'Observatoire.

The arguments against studying Latin and Greek: why repeat them? We all know them; right-thinking people are quick to remind us. These languages are useless and dead; in the age of the internet and artificial intelligence, there would be far more profitable ways to invest one's time and energy. Better to leave it to others, to a minority, surely an elite, to learn them...

If the attacks the humanities face are commonplaces everyone knows, the case Caroline Fourgeaud-Laville makes in this book wins us over, on the contrary, through its originality.

Without dogmatism, with a patience that betrays the seasoned teacher she must be, the author explains, over short chapters, why the Greek and Latin humanities are a heritage for our time. Drawing her arguments from the worlds of fashion, technology, education and entertainment, she shows how ancient languages

help cultivate a common space for diverse peoples, but are also wellsprings of artistic and scientific innovation.

We watch her move through classrooms in France and across the Cambridge campus, through the biographies of scholars past and present; we watch her draw the bond between the sciences of Antiquity and new technologies as she shows how the latter are put to work to unlock the meaning of ancient texts.

The argument from neuroplasticity is perhaps the most convincing: learning Latin and Greek means becoming familiar with another way of conceiving the world through language, and fostering the creation of new connections.

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— Benjamin Hoffmann

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