PRESS KIT · 2026

Germán Novas

Writer and researcher

I have devoted my life to understanding why we believe.

FOUNDER OF COGNITIVE THEOSEMIOTICS · TEDX SPEAKER · BIOBÍO REGION, CHILE

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THE AUTHOR

Germán Novas

BIOGRAPHY

Germán Novas is an independent Chilean writer and researcher from the Biobío Region. He is the founder of Cognitive Theosemiotics, a field of study that brings together the semiotics of Charles S. Peirce, theory of mind and neuroscience to explain where belief comes from. His central claim is that belief is not an irrational anomaly but the tool the human mind uses to bear uncertainty and give it shape.

Trained in Biblical Studies, he worked as a senior designer specializing in semiotics and corporate identity. He has published seven books of fiction and non-fiction. He debuted in 2016 with La coartada imperfecta, a psychological thriller that became a bestseller in three countries. In 2026 he published Arder para creer, his first dystopian novel, which critics have compared to 1984, Fahrenheit 451 and Brave New World.

He has spoken at TEDx and co-founded DDTalks, a talk series of the Design Department at Duoc UC. For years he visited schools in low-income communities with talks on literature and writing contests to encourage children and teenagers to write.

Belief is not an irrational anomaly in the face of mystery, but the primary cognitive and structural tool with which the human mind encodes, bears and gives meaning to uncertainty.

THE SEMIOTIC IMPERATIVE OF MEANING

SHORT BIO

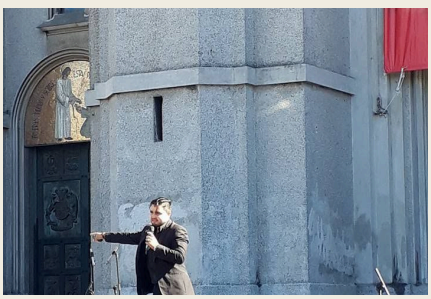
Germán Novas is an independent Chilean writer and researcher from the Biobío Region. He founded Cognitive Theosemiotics, a research program that studies why we believe through cognitive science, semiotics and neuroscience. He is the author of seven books, including the essay El culto and the dystopian novel Arder para creer, and a TEDx speaker.

ONE-LINE BIO

Germán Novas is a Chilean writer and researcher, the founder of Cognitive Theosemiotics and the author of seven books about why we believe.

KEY FACTS

BOOKS	7 published · 3 forthcoming
PAPERS	16 · Zenodo and Academia.edu
ORCID	0009-0004-3944-2428
TALKS	TEDx · DDTalks (co-founder)
COLUMNIST	Foro Alfa · 2 articles
BASED IN	Biobío Region, Chile







Books

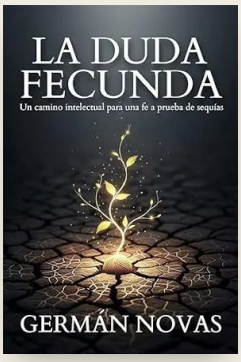
Seven published books spanning fiction, essays and an academic monograph, all written in Spanish. They all return to the same question: believing, knowing and doubting. Available on Amazon in paperback and Kindle (Spanish).



2016

La coartada imperfecta

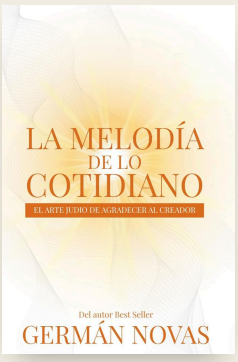
Psychological thriller · Bestseller in 3 countries



2025

La duda fecunda

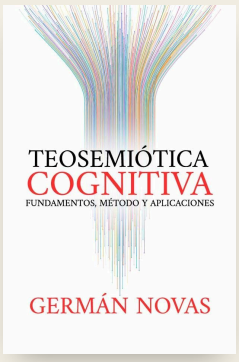
Essay · Philosophy and biblical studies



2025

La melodía de lo cotidiano

Essay · Jewish spirituality



2025

Teosemiótica cognitiva

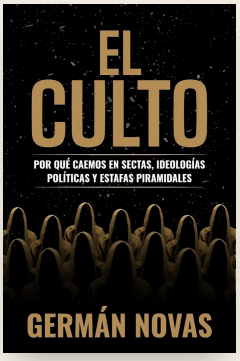
Academic monograph



2026

El arquetipo del salvador

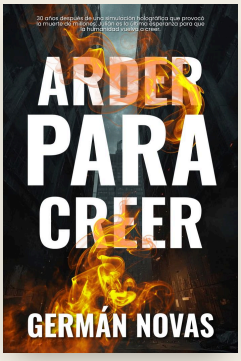
Essay · Comparative mythology



2026

El culto

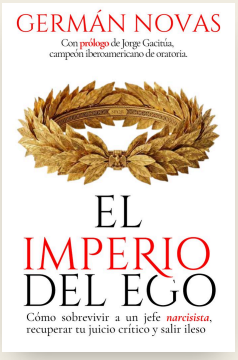
Investigative essay · Cults and manipulation



2026

Arder para creer

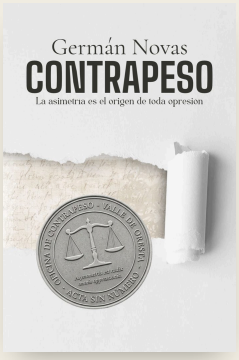
Dystopian novel



FORTHCOMING

El imperio del ego

Essay · Behavioral psychology and neuroscience



FORTHCOMING

Contrapeso

Dystopian novel



FORTHCOMING

El parámetro libre

Epistemology · The Gettier problem

NEW RELEASE

PRESS RELEASE · FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE · BIOBÍO REGION, CHILE · 2026

Germán Novas publishes Arder para creer, a dystopia about a city that gave up believing so it would never suffer again

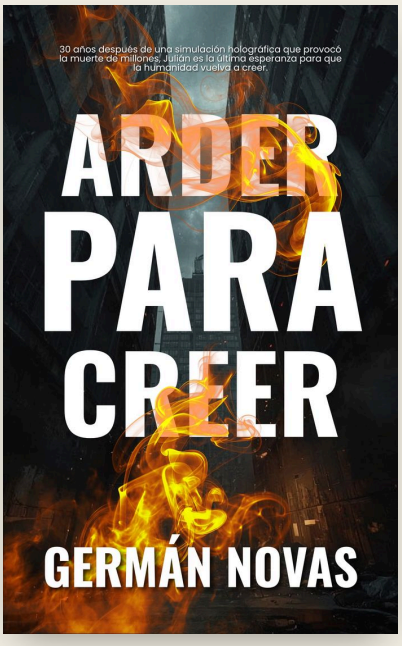
The Chilean researcher behind Cognitive Theosemiotics takes his lifelong question into fiction: why we believe, and what happens to a society that decides never to do it again.

Independent writer and researcher Germán Novas presents Arder para creer (Burn to Believe), his first dystopian novel and his return to fiction ten years after La coartada imperfecta (2016). The book has been available on Amazon since 17 August 2026 in paperback, hardcover and Kindle editions, in Spanish.

One day the sky opens and a voice begins to judge humanity: time is up. For 41 days there are public killings, suicides and crowds kneeling for mercy, until it is revealed that it was all a hologram. Ashamed of having handed their neighbors over to death to save themselves, people make a pact: to stop believing. Thirty years later, in the city of Anomia, beliefs are frowned upon and even punished, but a young man is born with questions that only a blind man, in a hidden library, can answer.

The novel steers clear of gratuitous action and the logic of heroes and villains. Its ground is the origin of belief, the trauma of collective manipulation, and what a person is willing to give up so as not to carry doubt alone.

Novas has studied that question for years as the author of Teosemiótica cognitiva, the theoretical framework that connects the cognitive science of religion with Peircean semiotics. Arder para creer carries that research into fiction and places it alongside 1984, Brave New World and Fahrenheit 451. Before the end of 2026 the author plans to publish a second dystopia, Contrapeso, and a new essay.



BOOK DETAILS

TITLE
Arder para creer

GENRE
Dystopian novel · philosophical fiction

PAGES
257 (print edition)

FORMATS
Paperback, hardcover and Kindle

ISBN
979-8188674847

PUBLISHED
17 August 2026

LANGUAGE
Spanish

ARDER PARA CREER

What readers say

"This book isn't like modern dystopias. It feels like going back to the classic dystopias, with a philosophical background that is far more human and realistic, where fear is always present."

"Novas doesn't settle for a traditional science-fiction story with heroes and villains. He opens a deep debate on the origin of belief, the trauma of media manipulation and the human need to find a purpose."

"The novel stands out for its oppressive atmosphere and an introspective pace that puts philosophical weight and psychological depth ahead of gratuitous action."

Translated from Spanish.

QUOTES FROM THE BOOK

"It's easier to say we were deceived. It sounds better than saying we wanted to believe."

"Faith doesn't kill anyone, Tobías. What kills is faith that no longer dares to doubt itself."

"In Anomia, pain spread like a fever, and the only known vaccine was indifference, practiced with discipline from the cradle."

"The dead only die when the living stop lending them their senses."

Translated from the Spanish edition.

RESEARCH

$$E_t = (D_s \times C_p) / R_c$$

Cognitive Theosemiotics proposes a minimal unit of sacred meaning, the Theoseme, and an efficacy equation to study how a belief forms, holds and becomes pathological. It is a theoretical, pre-laboratory program framed around falsifiable predictions.

Full corpus at germannovas.cl and on ORCID 0009-0004-3944-2428. Most papers are in Spanish.

SELECTED WORK

2026 — El parámetro libre: why Gettier's recipe works and how to remove the ingredient
Zenodo · 10.5281/zenodo.22832190

2025 — Reverse-Engineering the Sacred: The Neuro-Semiotic Mechanics of Cognitive Theosemiotics
Zenodo · 10.5281/zenodo.17701375

2025 — Ontological Manifesto of Cognitive Theosemiotics
Zenodo · 10.5281/zenodo.17860182

2025 — Homeostasis of Homo Credens: a computational validation of the theosemiotic efficacy equation
Zenodo · 10.5281/zenodo.18018648

2025 — Genesis of the Theoseme: from the transitional object to abstract divinity
Zenodo · 10.5281/zenodo.17815565

TALKS AND MEDIA

Talks and media

TEDx

"Inspirando desde las letras" (Inspiring through letters) · 28 September 2018.

DDTalks · Duoc UC

Co-founded the series with Alejandro Palma, with the collaboration of Felipe Bastidas and Gonzalo Garrido and the leadership of the Design Department at Duoc UC.

Television

Interviews on Canal 9 Regional (morning show Nuestra casa, 2016 and 2017), Dinámica Televisión (2017) and in Toronto, Canada (2016).

Foro Alfa

Two articles on cognitive semiotics and brand design (2022, 2026).

Literature in schools

Talks and writing contests in schools in low-income communities to encourage children and teenagers to write.

SUGGESTED QUESTIONS

Suggested questions

01 What is Cognitive Theosemiotics, explained for someone who has never read Peirce?

02 You have studied why we believe for years. What could the novel say that an essay couldn't?

03 Anomia is a city that chose indifference so it would never suffer again. Do you see any of that in Chile or Latin America today?

04 In El culto you write about invisible cages. How can we recognize a cult, a pyramid scheme or a controlling relationship in time?

05 Can we doubt without becoming cynical? What would it mean to believe well?

06 Your first novel came out in 2016. Why did it take ten years to return to fiction?

PRESS

Press contact

Available for in-person interviews in Concepción and the Biobío Region, and remotely for media in Latin America, Spain and beyond. Interviews in Spanish; review copies and high-resolution images on request.

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GOODREADS
goodreads.com/author/show/15686804