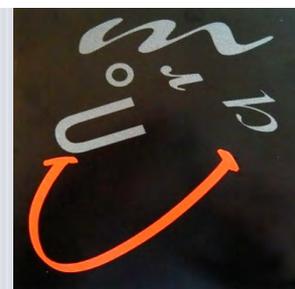


The Humour Studies Digest

Australasian Humour Studies Network ([AHSN](#))

February 2018



Report - 24th AHSN Conference

2-4 February 2018, Cairns FNQ

Report from the Conference Convenor:

Hello again from Anja!

I had a really great time hosting the 2018 AHSN conference and I hope everyone also enjoyed their time at the conference and in Cairns. The event actually received quite a bit of media coverage with several local newspapers reporting on the event. There was also a radio interview of some of us with Adam from ABC Far North Radio.

I'm always fascinated by the diversity of scholars and presentations that this conference attracts and this one did not disappoint with many new speakers and topics. Our two keynote lecturers were very well received, Prof. Phillip Pearce of James Cook University, who addressed the theme of humour in travel stories, and Prof. Laura Little, from Temple University's Beasley School of Law in Philadelphia, who explored the legal barriers to humour in various countries. Thanks to them both.

It was great to have with us the convenor of the upcoming 2018 International Humor Studies Conference in Tallinn, Estonia, Dr Liisi Laineste, and also the incoming President of the International Society for Humor Studies, Prof. Wladyslaw Chlopicki (Jagellonian University, Krakow). We hope to see them both back in Australia as often as possible.

I passed our sincere thanks on to The Food Factory Cairns for their delicious catering and told them that their food was well received - not just by the delegates but also the students who grazed on the many leftovers.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my two 'conference angels', Michelle Thompson and Terry Cummins, who helped me organise the event. And also, to the Centre for Tourism and Regional Opportunities at CQU for supporting the conference.

Finally, all the best to RMIT for organising another great AHSN conference that will take place in 2019 – **hold the dates of 6-9 February in Melbourne (tbc)!**

Hopefully see you all there.

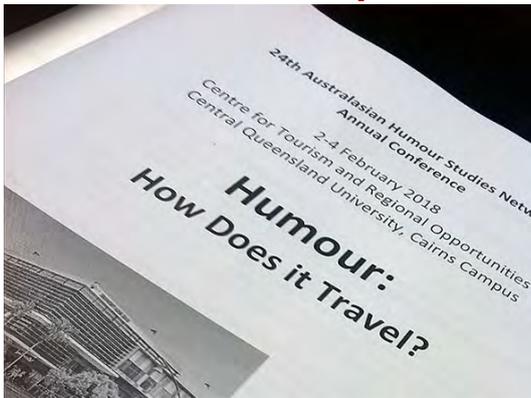
Best wishes,

Anja

THIS EDITION

<i>24th AHSN Conference Report</i>	1
<i>A Conference Report in Pictures</i>	2
<i>Media Coverage</i>	5
<i>AHSN Research Student Profile: Reza Arab</i>	5
<i>AHSN Research Student Profile: Dita Svelte</i>	6
<i>2018 International Doctoral Day on Studying Humour and Laughter</i>	7
<i>New humour book by AHSN member D. T. Klika</i>	8
<i>New humour book by AHSN member Elisha McIntyre</i>	8
<i>New humour book by AHSN member Jessica Milner Davis</i>	10
<i>Members' New Humour Studies Publications</i>	11
<i>Jim Bridges, AHSN member, finds a home for his magnificent cartoon collection</i>	12
<i>Call For Papers: Colloquium on the Works of John M. Clarke</i>	13
<i>Call for Chapters: Examining the Phenomenon of Political Humor</i>	14
<i>Announcement of New Humour Studies Journal</i>	15
<i>News from the New Francophone Humour Studies Network, RIRH, in Paris</i>	15
<i>TaCo2018 - Taboo and the Media Call for Papers</i>	16
<i>30th ISHS Conference, Tallinn, Estonia, 25-29 June 2018</i>	17
<i>ISS18 University of Wolverhampton, UK 2-7 July 2018</i>	18
<i>A thank you from the Editors</i>	18

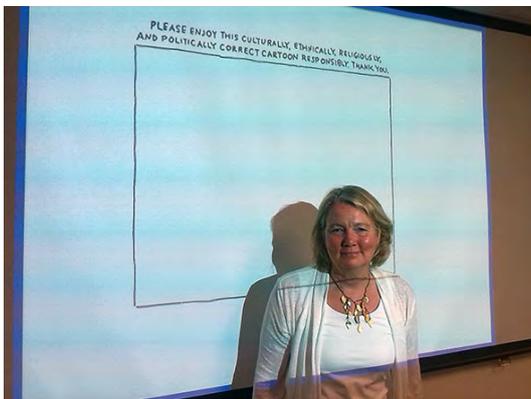
A Conference Report in Pictures



And so, it begins...



Professor Laura Little in full flight.



Laura in the warm glow of the data projector.



Ira Seidenstein's workshop



Craig Batty presented Comedy as Method



Anne-Sophie Jürgens presented cannibal clowns.



Mark St Leon brought the circus to town.



Karen Austin presenting on Aboriginal humour



Angus McLachlan tickled us.



Liisi Anja, Wladyslaw and Anne-Sophie



Michael Ewans on the start line.



And now the crowd has arrived.



Jessica with Conference Convenor Anja Pabel



Kerry Mullan and Craig Batty – our 2019 Convenors



Kerry and Craig letting us know about next year.



Peter Kirkpatrick, Angus McLachlan and Jocelyn Chey



Adrian Hale and Reza Arab.



The conference dinner.



Jocelyn Chey, Bruce Findlay, Anja Pabel, Kerry Mullan, Lucien Leon, Jessica Milner Davis and Reza Arab.



Bruce Findlay and Carmen Moran.



A heartfelt thank you to President Bruce Findlay



The official foolscap of Office...



Passed on to our new President Angus McLachlan

AHSN2018 - strong media coverage



Anja directing a TV News cameraman.



Anja Pabel, Laura Little, Wladyslaw Chlopicki and Jessica Milner Davis radio interview

An outstanding feature of the AHSN2018 conference was the strong media coverage it received. Even before the conference started it was mentioned in a range of social and online media sites including the campusmorningmail.com.au, Twitter and Facebook.

The conference was also covered by local and state media including: Star 102.7 FM, 4CA 846 AM, ABC Far North Queensland and ABC Sunshine Coast and WIN TV.

AHSN Research Student Profile: Reza Arab

Juggling with semantics, irony, and culture

My PhD thesis at Griffith University is a study on a range of taste-related vocabulary in Persian (Farsi), which mostly appears in the context of describing and evaluating funniness of things, words, and people. One example is "being with namak [salt]" which extends to denote any "funny utterance" or "funny person" in English terms.

I have built a couple of corpora to reveal the patterns and contexts in which these words appear in the natural discourse. Although the study does not particularly deal with a genealogy of Persian humour, it tries to shed light on how it is perceived in terms of these taste metaphors. It is an interdisciplinary work which attempts to employ ethnopragmatic techniques to spell out insiders' understanding. I enjoy having Prof. Cliff Goddard as my principal supervisor. Cliff has conducted some important studies on ethnopragmatics of Anglo-English humour.



Another project of mine deals with a description of categories of humour in Persian, especially irony and the first part of this is the subject of my presentation study at the 24th meeting of AHSN in Cairns. It tries to find out what understanding of the ironic exists in the Persian language.

I started thinking about and working on irony when I was an MA student at the University of Warsaw, where I

wrote a thesis on irony and intention. At the same time, I also did a little research on the concept of irony in German Romanticism and how they defined it then as a mode of existence and subjectivism.

I have always been fascinated by irony and sarcasm. I was notorious for always being sarcastic when I was younger! Interestingly, however, while I am very inclined to use what we know as- verbal irony in my first language, I am hardly ever sarcastic in English, my second language. Therefore, I cannot claim that I use irony very often since when we meet at an AHSN conference, I won't probably be a sarcastic person!

Contact Reza at: reza.arab@griffithuni.edu.au

Ed.: Reza was a AHSN Scholarship Winner for 24th AHSN, CQU, Cairns

AHSN Research Student Profile: Dita Svelte

Dita Svelte is a PhD candidate in the School of Social Sciences, Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences at the University of New South Wales in Sydney. His research focusses on clarifying the relationship between humour and the phenomenon of fashion. Fashion as it is commonly understood as regular, rhythmic changes in style originally developed in the West during the fifteenth century. Since then, it has not only persisted but during the last century expanded globally. In the twenty-first century, its ubiquity and economic importance are undeniable. And yet, despite its power, it is still often dismissed as superficial, trivial or unimportant in itself. In challenging this view, Dita seeks to understand the appeal and allure of fashion. To put it another way, he asks the questions: Why do we like fashion? Why are we drawn towards it?

Dita's research argues that humour provides insight into answering these questions. Humour and fashion are well-connected within popular culture. In the eighteenth century, the production of printed caricatures that exaggerated elaborate fashions of the day were a popular source of entertainment that allowed people to laugh at the foibles of the fashionable set. The Regency dandy, personified in Beau Brummell, was prized equally for his witty quips as for his sartorial innovations in forming the predecessor of the modern suit. Hans Christian Andersen's story of the Emperor and his New Clothes (1837) is perhaps the most famous exemplar of stories sending up the pretensions of fashion. More recent examples of this genre include Robert Altman's film *Prêt-à-Porter* (1994), the TV series *Absolutely Fabulous* (1992-), and the cult classic *Zoolander* (2001).

Practitioners of fashion themselves often don't take their work too seriously. Fashion photography frequently features images of the absurd, the exaggerated and the hilarious, as found in the camp tableaux of luminaries such as Ernst Blumenfeld, Guy Bourdin, or David LaChapelle. Fashion designers sometimes intervene in the fashion system using humour, such as Elsa Schiaparelli's surrealist shoe-shaped hats, Franco Moschino's jackets with the price tags satirically embroidered on the back, or Dutch duo Viktor & Rolf's witty and spectacular runway shows. Karl Lagerfeld, head designer for Chanel, is as renowned for his outrageous and amusing sayings as he is for his designs.



But within the academic study of fashion, this link between humour and fashion has not been rigorously explicated. Dita's work seeks to foreground the ways in which humour's capacity to surprise, its pithy form (as in the dandy's quip) and its intellectual creativity share important similarities with fashion. Like humour, fashion also possesses the ability to shock and delight, to generate new insights, or to challenge the status quo and turn the world on its head. Like a punchline to a joke, it does so in a very economical way – the sudden appearance of a garment on a catwalk, or simply changing a detail such as an accessory or the length of a hemline. For Dita, humour provides one way of understanding fashion's enduring appeal and allure. The power of humour should not be underestimated in this context: as Coco Chanel is herself reported to have said, 'You live but once; might as well be amusing.'

Ed.: Dita was a AHSN Scholarship Winner for 24th AHSN, CQU, Cairns

If you are interested in Dita's work, contact him at: dita.svelte@gmail.com

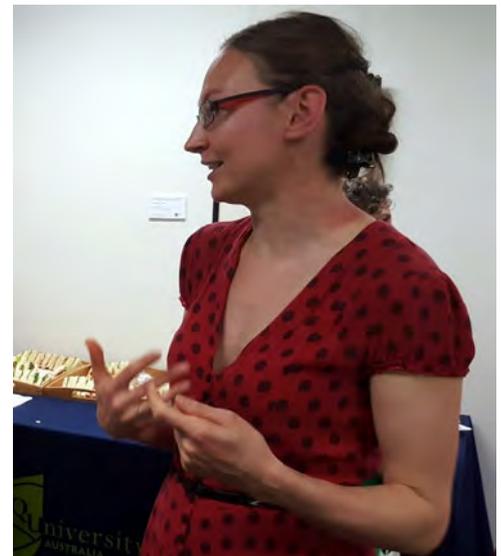
2018 International Doctoral Day on Studying Humour and Laughter

In association with the 2018 ISHS Conference in Tallinn, Estonia, next June, there will be a to the doctoral seminar day on approaches to studying humour and laughter. It will take place on June 25, 2018 and can accommodate up to 80 participants (20 participants x 4 workshops).

The seminar targets participants who have had little previous exposure to humor studies and who would like to take part in the ISHS conference and perhaps engage in humor research in the future. It will comprise a keynote lecture and workshops held by five prominent humour scholars. These are scheduled to take place between 9AM and 5:30 PM, on Monday June 25, 2018.

For full details of the planned program, please see the [link](#) (on the ISHS conference webpage).

The Conference and Doctoral Day Convenor, Liisi Laineste, hopes to see as many students as possible take part in this event and sends her best wishes to all thinking of attending and an invitation to contact her direct.



Dr Liisi Laineste

Dr Liisi Laineste

Senior Research Fellow

Estonian Literary Museum

Centre of Excellence in Estonian Studies

E: liisi@folklore.ee

New humour book by AHSN member

D. T. Klika. 2018.

Situation Comedy, Character and Psychoanalysis: On the Couch with Lucy, Basil and Kimmie

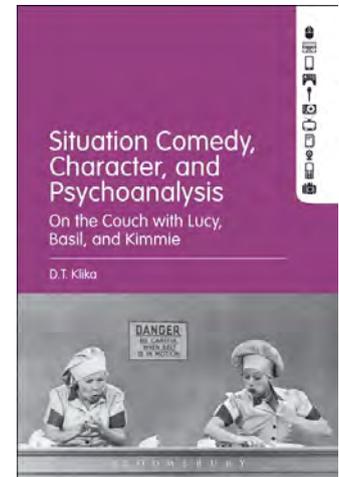
Situation Comedy, Character and Psychoanalysis puts the sitcom character on the analyst's couch and closely examines the characters of Basil Fawlty, Lucy Ricardo and Kim from Australia's *Kath & Kim*, in order to reveal the essential elements that must exist in a sitcom before even the first joke is written. Original in its approach, D.T. Klika uncovers major findings about the sitcom as well as human behaviour and relationships that we find 'arresting' and even "familial".

By offering a new way of reading the sitcom using psychoanalytic theory, this book can be used as a basis for engaging in critical discourses as well as textual analysis of programs. Psychoanalytic theory enables a reading of character motivations and relationships, in turn elucidating the power struggle that exists between characters in this form of comedy. *Situation Comedy, Character and Psychoanalysis* shines a light on what is at play in the sitcom that makes us laugh, and why we love the characters we do, only to discover that this form of comedy is more complex than we first thought.

Bio-note:

Deborah T. Klika is Lecturer in TV and Film Production at Middlesex University, UK. Deborah took her PhD from the University of New South Wales in Sydney. She has worked as a writer, producer, script advisor and written three sitcom pilots one of which was nominated for the Australian Writers Guild Monte Miller Award; another was recently nominated for the New York Screenplay Contest.

D. T. Klika. 2018. *Situation Comedy, Character and Psychoanalysis: On the Couch with Lucy, Basil and Kimmie*. London: Bloomsbury. <https://www.bloomsbury.com/us/situation-comedy-character-and-psychoanalysis-9781501327384/>



New humour book by AHSN member

Elisha McIntyre. 2017.

Religious Humor in Evangelical Christian and Mormon Culture.

Dr Elisha McIntyre announces the appearance of her new book, based on her doctoral thesis completed at University of Sydney some years ago.

Bio-note:

Elisha presented several sections of her work in progress at AHSN Conferences over the years, always to great interest and she would like to send her thanks to the Network and its members for encouragement over the years. Despite being on current baby-duty, Elisha is continuing her academic work and recently gave a lecture on American Comedy for the US Studies Centre at University of Sydney. She's also completing a Masters in Teaching.



About *Religious Humor in Evangelical Christian and Mormon Culture*

Incorporating perspectives from religious studies, humor studies, cultural and film studies, and theology, as well as original data from textual analysis and the voices of religious comedians, this book critically analyses the experiences of believers who appreciate that their faith is not necessarily a barrier to their laughter.

It is often thought that religion and humor are incompatible, but *Religious Humor in Evangelical Christian and Mormon Culture* shows that humor is not only a popular means of entertainment, but also a way in which an individual or community expresses their identity and values. Elisha McIntyre argues that believers embrace their sense of humor, actively producing and consciously consuming comic entertainment that reflects their own experiences.

This process is not however without conflict. The book argues that there are specific characteristics that indicate a unique kind of humor that may be called 'religious humor'. Through an examination of religious humor found in stand-up comedy, television sitcoms, comedy film and satirical cartoons, and drawing on interview data, the book outlines the main considerations that Christians take into account when choosing their comedy entertainment. These include questions about ideology, blasphemy, taboos around the body, and the motives behind the joke.

Contents

List of illustrations and Acknowledgements

Introduction

1. Evangelicals, Mormons and Popular Culture

2. Introducing the Challenges of Humor

3. Appropriate Humor I: Blasphemy and Belief

4. Appropriate Humor II: Clean and Dirty Humor

5. Appropriate Humor III: Safe and Subversive Humor

Conclusion, Bibliography and Index

Reviews:

"Finding similarities of core values among various Mormon and Evangelical Christian groups, Elisha McIntyre pinpoints another shared virtue: self-reflexive religious humor. Constructing a fresh apologetic for the place of laughter within these conservative communities, McIntyre expertly negotiates the tensions between their religious traditions (particularly those of LDS) and popular culture, merrily exploring areas of clean humor, sex, sin, and swearing, though not in that order." – Terry Lindvall, Professor of Communication, Virginia Wesleyan University, USA

"*Religious Humour in Evangelical Christian and Mormon Culture* is a most welcome addition to the study of religion and humour. McIntyre focuses on two groups that can be seen as populated by humourless prudes, but in her very capable hands she shows us how they use strategies that make sense in their religious subcultures to make their co-religionists laugh. This book will expose people to a world of humour that is not normally available in HBO or Netflix specials, but which exposes the moral orders of American Evangelicals and Latter-Day Saints in new and insightful ways with a sophisticated theoretical framework. McIntyre has given us a work of insightful, accessible, and valuable scholarship." – David Feltmate, Associate Professor of Sociology, Auburn University at Montgomery, USA

Elisha McIntyre. 2017. *Religious Humor in Evangelical Christian and Mormon Culture*. London: Bloomsbury Academic. 10 B&W illus. ISBN: 9781350005488. Bloomsbury Academic website at:

<https://www.bloomsbury.com/au/religious-humor-in-evangelical-christian-and-mormon-culture-9781350005488/>

New humour book by AHSN member

Jessica Milner Davis, ed. 2017.

Satire and Politics: The Interplay of Heritage and Practice

This is a lively contemporary study combining in-depth scholarship with a focus on popular comedy and satire. It examines the contemporary multi-media explosion of political satire. Rooted in 18th century Augustan practice, satire's indelible link with politics underlies today's universal disgust with the ways of elected politicians. This study interrogates the impact of British and American satirical media on political life, with a special focus on political cartoons and the levelling humour of Australasian satirists.

Bio-note:

Jessica Milner Davis FRSN is a member of Clare Hall Cambridge, UK, and a research associate at the University of Sydney and at Brunel University's Centre for Comedy Studies Research. Twice president of the International Society for Humor Studies, she coordinates the Australasian Humour Studies Network.

Review comments:

'A fascinating collection showcasing satire in all its guises from those parts of the world where poking fun at people in power is a sacred cultural tradition. A wonderful read, combining rich textual and visual analysis, theoretical progress and sharp insight into the effects of political satire – as well as excellent jokes and a dash of offensiveness.' — Giseline Kuipers, University of Amsterdam. Author of *Good Humor, Bad Taste: A Sociology of the Joke* (2006).

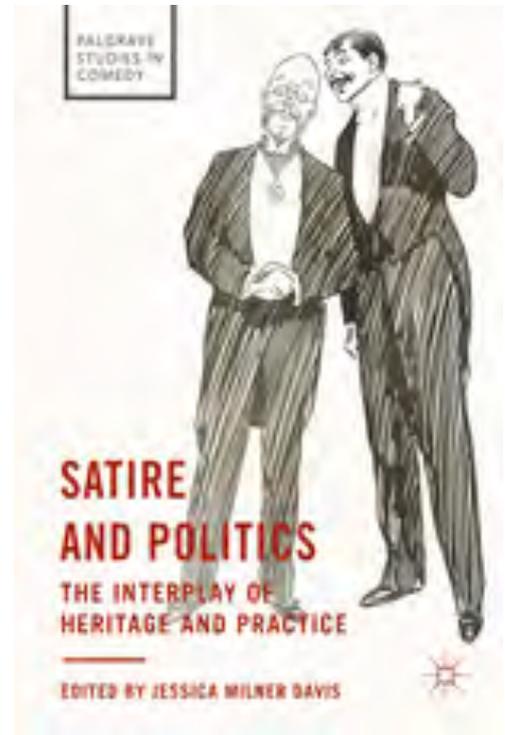
'The Aussie larrikin and The Conchords take their place next to Aristophanes and Swift in this wide-ranging, interdisciplinary book on the history and value of political satire – or the interplay of "licensed fools and elected knaves". Expertly selected and edited, these essays offer timely and essential insight into satire as a global phenomenon transcending genre and medium. Could become the standard work for understanding satire's important role today.' — Moira Marsh, Indiana University, Bloomington Illinois, USA. Author of *Practically Joking* (2015)

'Undoubtedly a significant volume on the study of the interplay between politics and satire. Highlighting satire's open meanings and manifestation in untold forms, the book is informed by an impressive level of historical analysis.' — Alex Sutton, University of Chichester, UK

'Places political humor in compelling contexts. A must-read for students of global satire in the Digital Age.' — Paul Lewis, Boston College, USA. Author of *Cracking Up: American Humor in a Time of Conflict* (2006)

Contents:

1. The Satirist, the Larrikin and the Politician: An Australian Perspective on Satire and Politics, Jessica Milner Davis and Lindsay Foyle, pp.1-35



2. The Populist Elements of Australian Political Satire and the Debt to the Americans and the Augustans, Mark Rolfe, pp.37-72
3. Under the Guise of Humour and Critique: The Political Co-Option of Popular Contemporary Satire, Rebecca Higgle, pp.73-102
4. The Politics of Deadpan in Australasian Satire, Nicholas Holm, pp.103-123
5. Towards a Discipline of Political Cartoon Studies: Mapping the Field, Khin Wee Chen, Robert Phiddian and Ronald Stewart, pp.125-162
6. The Evolution of Political Cartooning in the New Media Age: Cases from Australia, the USA and the UK, Lucien Leon, pp.163-191
7. The Effects of Satire: Exploring Its Impact on Political Candidate Evaluation, Alison O'Connor, pp.193-225
8. Yes Minister, Yes, Prime Minister: The Theoretical Dimension, Conal Condren, pp.227-250
9. Have They no Shame? Observations on the Effects of Satire, Robert Phiddian, pp.251-263

Note on cover image:

The cover image for this book, "Deuced funny!", is taken from Phil May's Sketch Book (London: Chatto & Windus, 1897). It depicts Melton Prior, UK war correspondent, and A.C. Corbould, a Punch artist, sharing some amusing political gossip. It was drawn by self-taught, English cartoonist Phillip William May (1864–1903), who went to Australia in 1885 to work on the influential magazine, *The Bulletin*, and continued to contribute to its pages after he returned to Europe in 1888. His accomplished style earned him recognition as one of the great cartoonists of the 19th century. May's work is discussed in Chapter 1, by Jessica Milner Davis and Lindsay Foyle.

Jessica Milner Davis, ed. 2017. *Satire and Politics: The Interplay of Heritage and Practice*. Palgrave Studies in Comedy. London: Palgrave Macmillan. eBook ISBN 978-3-319-56774-7; DOI 10.1007/978-3-319-56774-7; Hardcover ISBN 978-3-319-56773-0 At: <http://www.palgrave.com/gp/book/9783319567730#aboutBook>

Members' New Humour Studies Publications

Khin Wee Chen, Robert Phiddian and Ronald Stewart. 2017. Towards a Discipline of Political Cartoon Studies: Mapping the Field. In Jessica Milner Davis, ed., *Satire and Politics: The Interplay of Heritage and Practice*. London: Palgrave Macmillan, pp.125-162

Conal Condren, 2017. *Yes Minister, Yes, Prime Minister: The Theoretical Dimension*. In Jessica Milner Davis, ed., *Satire and Politics: The Interplay of Heritage and Practice*. London: Palgrave Macmillan, pp. 227-250

Rebecca Higgle. 2017. Under the Guise of Humour and Critique: The Political Co-Option of Popular Contemporary Satire. In Jessica Milner Davis, ed., *Satire and Politics: The Interplay of Heritage and Practice*. London: Palgrave Macmillan, pp.73-102

Nicholas Holm. 2017. The Politics of Deadpan in Australasian Satire. In Jessica Milner Davis, ed., *Satire and Politics: The Interplay of Heritage and Practice*. London: Palgrave Macmillan, pp. 103-123

Angelina Hurley. 2017. Indigenous cultural appropriation: what not to do. *The Conversation*. 29 November 2017. At: <https://theconversation.com/indigenous-cultural-appropriation-what-not-to-do-86679>

- Deborah T. Klika. 2018. *Situation Comedy, Character and Psychoanalysis: On the Couch with Lucy, Basil and Kimmie*. London: Bloomsbury.
- Lucien Leon. 2017. The Evolution of Political Cartooning in the New Media Age: Cases from Australia, the USA and the UK. In Jessica Milner Davis, ed., *Satire and Politics: The Interplay of Heritage and Practice*. London: Palgrave Macmillan, pp.163-191
- Elisha McIntyre. 2017. *Religious Humor in Evangelical Christian and Mormon Culture*. London: Bloomsbury Academic. At: <https://www.bloomsbury.com/au/religious-humor-in-evangelical-christian-and-mormon-culture-9781350005488/>
- Jessica Milner Davis. 2017. Unmasking Christie. *European Journal of Humor Research, Special Issue on Playing with Aggression, In Memoriam Christie Davies*, eds. Giseline Kuipers & Delia Chiaro, Vol 5 (4): 29-36. At: <https://europeanjournalofhumour.org/index.php/ejhr/article/view/249>
- Jessica Milner Davis and Lindsay Foyle. 2017. *The Satirist, the Larrikin and the Politician: An Australian Perspective on Satire and Politics*, In Jessica Milner Davis, ed., *Satire and Politics: The Interplay of Heritage and Practice*. London: Palgrave Macmillan, pp. 1-35
- Robert Phiddian. 2017. "Permission to laugh? Humour without risk of danger and offence would be an emaciated thing", *The Conversation*, 30 November 2017. At: <https://theconversation.com/permission-to-laugh-humour-without-risk-of-danger-and-offence-would-be-an-emaciated-thing-87519>
- _____. 2017. Have They no Shame? Observations on the Effects of Satire. In Jessica Milner Davis, ed., *Satire and Politics: The Interplay of Heritage and Practice*. London: Palgrave Macmillan, pp. 251-263
- Alison O'Connor. 2017. The Effects of Satire: Exploring Its Impact on Political Candidate Evaluation. In Jessica Milner Davis, ed., *Satire and Politics: The Interplay of Heritage and Practice*. London: Palgrave Macmillan, pp.193-225
- Mark Rolfe. 2017. The Populist Elements of Australian Political Satire and the Debt to the Americans and the Augustans. In Jessica Milner Davis, ed., *Satire and Politics: The Interplay of Heritage and Practice*. London: Palgrave Macmillan, pp. 37-72

Jim Bridges, AHSN member, finds a home for his magnificent cartoon collection

The Australian Cartoon Museum was officially opened on 15 December, 2017, by Heidi Victoria, Victorian Shadow Minister of the Arts. About 50 people attended the opening in the newly developed Artists Collective Centre in the Melbourne Docklands.

The Museum represents the culmination of a lifetime of cartoon collecting by Jim Bridges. A focus of this first exhibition arranged by Jim and his committee included numerous examples of a 'map of Australia' theme, while also illustrating the wide variety of cartoon-genres represented in the magnificent collection owned by the



Museum, and available for future exhibitions. The photograph shows Jim at the opening, with two other long-standing AHSN members, Maren and David Rawlings (both members in their time of the AHSN Review Panel).

Further information may be found on the Museum's website:

www.theaustraliancartoonmuseum.com.au

Call for Papers: Colloquium on the Works of John M. Clarke

Massey University, Palmerston North, 25-26 May 2018

John Clarke (1948-2017) was one of Australia's and New Zealand's most accomplished and most celebrated humourists. From his early performances as the iconic character, Fred Dagg, to his creation of one of Australia's most acclaimed screen comedies, *The Games* (1998-2000), and through his three decades of incisive comic interviews alongside Bryan Dawe, Clarke emerged as the pre-eminent antipodean political satirist, working across multiple media and formats. His influence was such that he did not simply embody the comic traditions of two nations but transformed and extended them. Clarke's comedy occupies a central place in the cultural landscape of both countries that he called home.

One year after his untimely death in 2017, contributors are invited to propose papers for a colloquium that will critically examine his life and work. The event will be held at Massey University, Palmerston North—the city of Clarke's birth and childhood—from May 25-26. The academic program is planned to accompany several other events remembering Clarke's life and work.

Papers are welcome on any aspect of Clarke's life and work, his relationship to comic and national traditions, his work across different media, and his role as a satirist, commentator and public figure. A limited number of papers may be selected for inclusion in a forthcoming 2019 special issue of the *Journal of Comedy Studies* [<http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/rcos20/current>] dedicated to Clarke's comedy.

Submission of Abstracts and Bio-notes:

Abstracts should be no more than 500 words, including a title and any essential references. Please prepare a word-document using Times New Roman 12 pt font and double spacing. The Call will close on 18 March 2018. Submit your abstract, accompanied by a 150-word bio-note that includes your affiliation and contact details, by email to:

Dr Nicholas Holm
English and Media Studies
Massey University, Wellington
N.H.F.Holm@massey.ac.nz

Review Procedure:

Abstracts will be independently reviewed in the order received by at least two members of the Colloquium Scientific Panel, comprising:

Nicholas Holm, Massey University, Wellington
Robert Phiddian, Flinders University, Adelaide
Jessica Milner Davis, Sydney University, Sydney
Anne Pender, University of New England, Armidale
Mark Rolfe, University of New South Wales, Sydney

Correspondence about the Colloquium should be addressed to Nicholas Holm (see details above).

Call for Chapters: Examining the Phenomenon of Political Humor

Editor: Constantino Pereira Martins

Introduction to the Subject Area

Humor is a complex subject with various derivations that lives at the present in a gracious state. From movies to television, from Arts to Politics, being funny and having a sense of humor as become a key subject to understanding the historical momentum. Addressing specifically the event “White House Correspondents’ Dinner” we aim to explore all the phenomenological and political implications of this exemplar case-study. This means historical, philosophical, political, rhetorical and media perspectives are welcomed to fully understand the importance of having politicians laughing at themselves, among them and at each other, by them and by others. This sui generis event, between kings, court and jesters, anchored in both offense and defense rhetorical strategies (or simultaneous), is undoubtedly one of the most incongruous and relevant events of social and political order worldwide. We hope to highlight that singularity.

In general terms, the book will try to establish a collection of academic essays that aims to cover different areas and forms of access to the topic, in the attempt of showing the complexity of a phenomenon that is part of everyone’s daily life through television mainly but that has massive political implications and can uncover and reveal one of the oldest relation in politics: of humor and power.

Overall Objectives and Mission

The concept of Humor and its relation to Politics is something of daily use but that has not been addressed in terms of its multiplicity in the academic field regarding a specific event that as both historical and philosophical layers blended in a political happening. It’s a general concept that has multiple access doors that we intend to bring to the general public, and specifically to the academic one, in a systematic and condensed proposal that could be a referential title for those who wish to study this concept. In a certain sense the idea is to transform this book in a mandatory starting point of study. From Philosophy to Politics and Media, starting in Psychology and dealing with political communication agenda problems, the general goal would be to give the readers a broader perspective of the topic.

Scholarly Value, Potential Contribution/ Impact, and Purpose

Since there is nothing published that one could compare, this book would constitute a reference title in terms of academic research. The book could most probably become one of those titles that would easily become a reference title in any academic research in the concept area due to its transversality and academic potential.

There is also a potential of partnerships to be build towards the White House, the White House Correspondents’ Dinner archives (that can allow scholars to a more historical perspective and even towards the methodology for ex: pre and post 9/11, regarding different President timelines, etc.), among others, that can greatly contribute to the certain success of this book.

Potential Uses/Intended Audience

- Academic community; students, teachers, researchers
- Political and Media, Marketing community
- Aesthetic community

Tentative Project Timetable

8-11 month development period (publication release date within approximately 12-14 months)

<https://www.igi-global.com/publish/call-for-papers/call-details/3115>

Announcement of New Humour Studies Journal

The Editors of the new RISU journal are pleased to announce that the first issue of RISU – *Rivista Italiana di Studi sull'Umorismo* has been published! Please visit:

<https://www.risu.biz/en/>

RISU is a multidisciplinary peer-reviewed, open source journal, aimed at increasing the depth of Humor Sciences across disciplines. The first issue comprises four extremely interesting and engaging articles (one in English) and two book reviews, whose purpose is to shed light on humor studies in the Italian scene. It will be published bi-annually.

Contributions to future issues are warmly welcomed.

Please visit the website for more information and advice on how to submit your proposed articles and reviews.



We look forward to hearing from you. Best regards and we wish you a happy new year.

Alberto and Laura

Dionigi Alberto - Federazione Nazionale Clowndottori, Cesena

Laura Vagnoli - Healthcare Clowning Research International Network, H-CRIN+, Firenze

Editors-in-Chief of Rivista Italiana di Studi sull'Umorismo

Ed.: Congratulations on an excellent first issue and all the very best for future issues from the AHSN.

News from the New Francophone Humour Studies Network, RIRH, in Paris

As reported in the Digest last year, RIRH (Reseau interdisciplinaire de recherches en humour/Interdisciplinary Network of Research on Humor) has commenced work. A new book series under the RIRH banner has been launched with a volume on humour and education (see below).

Note: its punning title refers to the first line of a well-known poem by Mallarmé, "Brise marine" ("Sea Breeze"): "La chair est triste, hélas ! et j'ai lu tous les livres" ("alas, the flesh is sad and I've read all the books"). It puns on "La chaire" with an "e", meaning (Departmental) Chair.

Corinne François-Denève, ed. 2017. *La chaire est triste. Humour et enseignement*. Paris: Éds. L' Harmattan. ISBN: 978-2-343-13594-6. 242pp.

At: <http://www.editions-harmattan.fr/index.asp?navig=catalogue&obj=livre&no=58243&razSqlClone=1>



Does humour relate to teaching? If the creative force of humour defies the posture of authoritarianism, then it

amounts to an ethic. This book addresses the relationship between humour and teaching through contributions and testimonies from teachers, writers and comedians.

Keywords:

Ethics of creativity; Pedagogy; Education; Teaching; Humour

The second volume in this RIRH series will bring together several papers from the 2017 ISHS conference in Montreal on humour and literature: It will be co-edited by RIRH chair, Yen-Mai Tran-Gervat (who presented an AHSN seminar at University of Sydney in 2016), with Bernard Andrés (UQAM, Montreal). The publisher is Presses de la Sorbonne Nouvelle and the expected publication date is end of 2018, provisional title: Humours en toutes lettres.

Ed.: Good luck to RIRH from AHSN and we look forward to future collaboration!

TaCo2018 - Taboo and the Media

Bertinoro, Italy - September 20th-22nd 2018

Call for Papers

In a world that seems continuously to be pushing the envelope of what is acceptable to the inhabitants of specific linguistic and cultural contexts, this interdisciplinary conference acknowledges the importance of investigating taboos and their reinforcement/breaking in various areas of language, culture and society, and across different cultures. We propose to explore the delicate balance and subtle boundaries between the need for inclusion and respect for different ethnic, religious, sexual, etc. backgrounds – which seems to be at the basis of modern multicultural societies – and a (un)conscious push towards the breaking of existing taboos, for example for shock value, as in the case of comedy and art. In such contexts, investigation of the linguistic, cultural, social, institutional and personal implications of taboo reinforcement/breaking appears of extreme value.

For its 4th edition, The Taboo Conference series will specifically address the intricacies of taboo and/in the media in its various occurrences from the points of view of production, performance, and perception/reception and in the broadest spectrum of print and virtual media. The subject of taboo and/in the media seems to have become especially relevant in the last few years, in which political correctness at both the institutional and individual level has been seen, on the one hand, as a crucial tool in protecting people from verbal abuse and in preventing the reinforcement of stereotypes and, on the other, as a set of measures and a way of thinking which significantly curtail free speech in many aspects of the public sphere.

The 2018 conference seeks to explore the shifting boundaries of the acceptability of taboo in their various incarnations as produced and perceived in today's media landscape, from cinema and television, to news, videogames, and different kinds of online content. Possible areas of inquiry include, for example, political orientations and political satire, identity and gender politics, ethnic stereotypes, different kinds of non-normative behaviour, political correctness and the discourse surrounding it, and the debate between real and perceived offense through comedy.

We welcome individual proposals or pre-organized panels from different disciplines.

Confirmed keynote speakers include **Debra Aarons** (University of New South Wales), **Sharon Lockyer** (Brunel University), and **Martin Rowson** (cartoonist, illustrator, and writer).

The working language for the conference is English. Each paper presentation should be scheduled for 15 minutes to be followed by a 10-minute Q&A to the panel.

300-word abstracts and a brief bio-note should be sent to thetabooconference@gmail.com by **15th March 2018** with the subject "TaCo2018 – proposal". If you are interested in submitting a pre-organized panel, please contact us by the same deadline.

Notification of acceptance for both abstracts and panels will be given by **15th April 2018**.

For more information - <https://eventi.unibo.it/taboo-and-the-media-2018>

30th ISHS Conference, Tallinn, Estonia, 25-29 June 2018

Reminder and Personal Invitation

The fairytale capital of Estonia - Tallinn - will be the place to experience the magic of the 30th ISHS conference on "Humour: Positively(?) Transforming", 25-29 June 2018. This year's convener, **Dr Liisi Laineste, presented in Cairns at the 24th AHSN Conference** and spread the word and answered about the ISHS conference.

The call for papers, posters, special panels (90-180 min), workshops (90 min) and other academic formats (including panels of flash presentations, 5-7 mins each) related to humour research is open 1 November 2017 – 31 March 2018.

Submit a proposal via our [online form](#) by March 31. Provisional acceptance notifications for abstracts will be sent out on a rolling basis within 1-2 weeks of submitting. Formal acceptance will be issued upon the receipt of the participation fee.

Conference participation fee (payable before February 15) is 220 EUR (ISHS members), 250 EUR (non-members) and 100 EUR (students). Find out about student scholarships and prizes on our website or by sending an email to: ishsconference2018@gmail.com.

Tallinn is ready for humour researchers!

More information and registration: www.folklore.ee/ishs2018/

Look us up and follow ISHS2018 on [Facebook](#).

The Conference Organisers

Liisi Laineste	(Chair, Estonian Literary Museum; Centre of Excellence in Estonian Studies)
Piret Voolaid	(Estonian Literary Museum; Centre of Excellence in Estonian Studies)
Mare Kõiva	(Estonian Literary Museum; Centre of Excellence in Estonian Studies)
Aurika Meimre	(Tallinn University)
Carlo Cubero	(Tallinn University)
Anastasyia Fiadotava	(University of Tartu; Centre of Excellence in Estonian Studies)
Anne Ostrak	(Estonian Literary Museum; Centre of Excellence in Estonian Studies)
Kristel Toom	(Graduate School of Culture Studies and Arts; Tallinn University)

Conference Sponsors:



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ISS18 University of Wolverhampton, UK 2-7 July 2018

Dear AHSN members,

The next International Summer School on Humour and Laughter ISS18 will take place at the University of Wolverhampton, Telford Campus, Shropshire, UK, from 2-7 July 2018.

See our live website: www.humoursummerschool.org/18

Look forward to seeing some of you there!

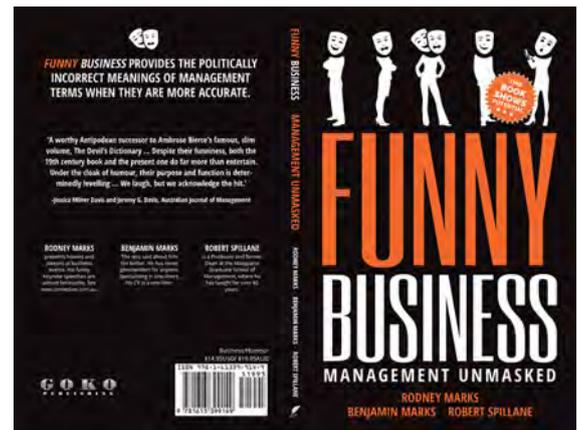
Regards,

Willibald Ruch and co-organisers, Josiane Boutonnet and Tracey Platt, University of Wolverhampton.

A thank you from the Editors

The Editors of the Digest, on behalf of the Cairns Conference Convenor and all the presenters, would like to express their gratitude to Robert Spillane, Benjamin Marks and Rodney Marks for providing copies of their book *Funny Business: Management Unmasked*. Copies of the book were included in the Conference “show-bag”.

Thank you to the authors for their generosity and for providing such a crackingly good read.



The Humour Studies Digest

The Australasian Humour Studies Network (AHSN)

‘We put the “U” back into “HUMOUR”!’

Send newsletter submissions to our Co-Editors:

Michael at michael.meany@newcastle.edu.au or Jessica at Jessica.davis@sydney.edu.au

To subscribe or unsubscribe, visit the AHSN website (<http://www.sydney.edu.au/humourstudies>), click on “Subscribe to e-Newsletter” and follow the prompts to enter or remove an email address.