

## Report on AHSN 2019, 25<sup>th</sup> annual conference

RMIT (Melbourne, Australia) welcomed over 70 delegates at the 25th annual Australasian Humour Studies Network (AHSN) conference from 6-8 February 2019. Delegates came from 5 Australian states and from Canada, France, Japan, Jordan, New Zealand, Pakistan and the UK. The theme was Humour in all its forms: On screen, on the page, on stage, on air, online ...

Conference convenors Kerry Mullan and Sharon Andrews (RMIT University), Craig Batty (formerly RMIT, now University of Technology Sydney) and Justine Sless (La Trobe University) organised a dizzying array of activities over the three days, including (in no particular order):

- 3 pre-conference workshops for postgraduates and early career researchers;
- two keynotes (including one hoax!);
- opening talks and viewing of THE OTHER MANGA: IT BITES! Japanese Newspaper Cartoon Satire exhibition (showing at the RMIT Library until 11 March 2019) (see photos below);
- four comedy workshops;
- two pre-organised panels;
- 48 presentations (including twelve by postgraduate students);
- an ARC research project discussion session on The History of Australian Editorial Cartooning;
- a display of World War 1 Australian trench magazine, Aussie Magazine;
- a book launch;
- the unveiling of a new AHSN logo (see above);
- the presentation of the inaugural Order of the Jess-ters Award and pins (see report by Dr Angus McLachlan, Chair of the AHSN Review Panel);
- welcome and farewell drinks (the former with a tribute to AHSN founder Jessica);
- conference dinner;
- and an inaugural AHSN conference comedy debate Is Political Correctness Killing Comedy? With trophy presented to the winning team.

## THIS EDITION

### Report on 25<sup>th</sup> AHSN Conference –

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <i>Image Gallery</i>                                       | 2 |
| <i>A View from the Chair</i>                               | 4 |
| <i>Report on AHSN Conference and Cartooning Exhibition</i> | 5 |

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <i>Save the Date: AHSN Invitational Seminar, Melbourne, 22 July 2019</i> | 5 |
|--|---|

### International Humour Studies Events –

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <i>19th International Summer School on Humour and Laughter, Bonn, 1-6 July 2019</i> | 5 |
|---|---|

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <i>2019 ISHS Conference, Austin, Texas, 24-29 June 2019</i> | 6 |
|---|---|

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <i>Conference on Humor in the Beginning</i> | 6 |
|---|---|

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <i>Reminder: International Gelological Congress</i> | 6 |
|---|---|

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <i>Honour for 2019 Conference Convenor Assoc. Prof. Kerry Mullan</i> | 7 |
|--|---|

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <i>Members' New Publications on Humour</i> | 7 |
|--|---|

|                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| <i>New Book on Workplace Humour</i> | 7 |
|-------------------------------------|---|

|                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| <i>New Humour-Related Books</i> | 8 |
|---------------------------------|---|

|  |    |
|--|----|
| <i>The Lowitja Institute and the Starlight Children's Foundation</i> | 10 |
|--|----|

|   |    |
|---|----|
| <i>2nd Panel on Humor and Artificial Intelligence</i> | 10 |
|---|----|

|  |    |
|--|----|
| <i>Bi-Lingual French-English Two-day workshop on "The Languages of Humour"</i> | 11 |
|--|----|

|   |    |
|---|----|
| <i>University College London: Call for Papers – July 2019</i> | 12 |
|---|----|

The debate was won first by the negative team, then by the affirmative team and then again by the negative team! (photo of debaters) Conference Co-convenor Sharon (member of the affirmative team) prefers to describe the process as “erroneously awarded to the negative team, objectively proven to be won by the affirmative team, and then in a total corruption of the process, given back to the negative team.” Not that she’s bitter....

There was even an unexpected visit on the second day from well-known Australian actor and comedian Steve Vizard when he heard about the conference. (see photo)

If you collected yours before they ran out, you are proud owner of the stylish conference bag, made for you by Husk Cambodia (<https://www.huskcambodia.org/>) and these are truly collectors’ items, as they sport the old AHSN logo.



For a copy of the conference Program Booklet, including abstracts and bionotes of presenters, please contact Dr Jessica Milner Davis [jessica.davis@sydney.edu.au](mailto:jessica.davis@sydney.edu.au) or Dr Kerry Mullan [kerry.mullan@rmit.edu.au](mailto:kerry.mullan@rmit.edu.au). All the photos from the conference can be viewed here: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/OBdibWsfYPOqGy5Z9>

We had a wonderful time organising and enjoying the conference, and we look forward to seeing you all again next year – who knows where? This is your Dream Team checking out.



---

## Image Gallery



A proper keynote address.



A keynote address to toy with your mind.



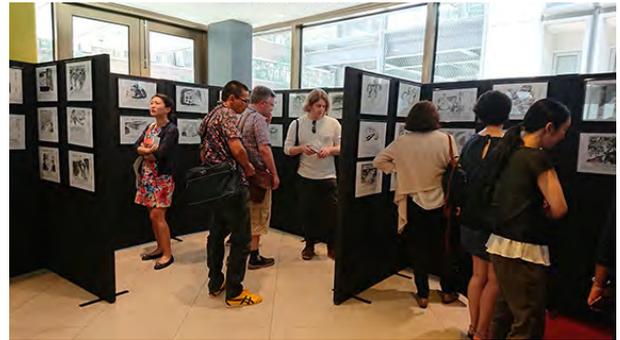
Winners are grinners!



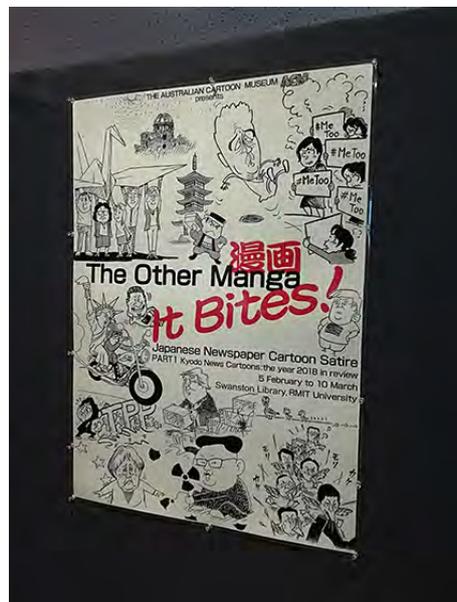
The object of desire - a beautiful trophy



L to R: Ronald Stewart (Daito Bunka University), Yoshiaki Yokota (University of Tokyo/Kyodo News Service Cartoonist) No-rio (Cartoonist for *Asahi Shinbun* & *Courier International*), and Kayo Onozuka (Kyoto University of Art and Design).



Conference delegates viewing cartoons by Yuzo Asakura (Part 2 of Cartooning Exhibition).



Poster for Part 1 of Cartooning Exhibition, designed by Tomoko Sasaki (Head, Illustration Dept., Kyodo News Service, who also spoke at the exhibition opening)

---

## A View from the Chair

Following a truly impressive conference, it's back to ordinary life, or as my father might have put it more poetically, back to 'auld claes and porridge' [old clothes and porridge]. Kerry and her team of Craig, Sharon, and Justine did a magnificent job putting on such a varied program – from papers to plenaries and exhibitions to debates – and richly deserve the accolades they received from those who attended. We had the largest ever conference with 72 delegates.

Also worthy of special note are Dr Jessica Milner Davis and Dr Bruce Finlay who were awarded membership of the newly instituted AHSN Order of the Jess-ters. Jessica and Bruce were recognised for the singular contributions they have made to the AHSN over a prolonged period, in Jessica's case since its inaugural meeting in 1997. They received their award in a somewhat quirky ceremony that followed an even quirkier debate in which the motion that 'Political correctness is killing comedy' was defeated by two formal collective roars of declamation opposing, against one informal vote in favour. Only at an AHSN conference.



AHSN Order of the Jess-ter - Dr Jessica Milner Davis



AHSN Order of the Jess-ter - Dr Bruce Findlay

Looking forward to next year, we are optimistic that we will head north to Brisbane. We hope to make a formal announcement in the next Digest.

In the meantime, I offer my usual sympathies to those who have to work for a living, while I retire to my garden shed to recover from the rigours of delivering a twenty minute paper.

Can I conclude with conveying our thanks once again to Kerry et al. for providing us with the opportunity to meet up with colleagues and learn so much, as well as reminding ourselves how much more there is to learn?

Angus (McLachlan)  
Chair of the AHSN Review Panel



---

## Report on AHSN Conference and Cartooning Exhibition

Ron Stewart (Daito Bunka University) reports:

In Japan, news about the Japanese cartooning focus at AHSN 2019 in Melbourne was very well received. The newspaper *Fukushima Minpo* ran a big article on the exhibition and the national TV network TBS who are making a special program to mark the 8th anniversary of the 3-11 disaster, have decided to interview the cartoonist Yuzo Asakura (some of whose “Disaster Picture Diary Cartoons” were on display). *Fukushima Minpo* has also run an article arguing for their value and noting the importance of them being able to cross language boundaries and be seen overseas (Japanese articles at: <http://www.minpo.jp/news/detail/2019020459963> and <http://www.minpo.jp/news/detail/2019021460259> )

Kayo Onozuka (Institute of Philosophy and Human Values at the Kyoto University of Art and Design), who spoke in the panel on Japanese political cartoons, has had her brief report on her participation in the conference posted by her research centre in English and Japanese on their news page (see second news item at: <https://www.kyoto-art.ac.jp/iphv/topics/> ).

Finally, the Australia Japan Society Victoria are now kindly promoting the exhibition on their website: <http://www.ajsvictoria.org.au/news>

Congratulations to all involved! And a big thank-you to Jim Bridges (Australian Cartooning Museum) for working on the display which went up at the last minute in the RMIT Library when the ACM’s premises became defunct. Lucky RMIT students get to enjoy it for another few weeks.

---

## Save the Date:

### AHSN Invitational Seminar, Melbourne, 22 July 2019

We are pleased to announce that AHSN will host an afternoon at RMIT at 2.00pm on 22 July 2019 where **Professor Willibald Ruch and Dr Sonja Heintz from the Department of Psychology at the University of Zurich** will present some **current research on humour and its links with positive psychology**.

Professor Ruch is a past President of the International Society of Humor Studies, and he and Dr Heintz have collaborated on several recent humour studies and articles. Entry is free but it will be appreciated if you can indicate your intention to attend, for booking purposes.

Watch this space and the AHSN website for details of the specific venue and for further enquiries, please contact Bruce Findlay E: [bfindlay@swin.edu.au](mailto:bfindlay@swin.edu.au)

---

## International Humour Studies Events

### 19<sup>th</sup> International Summer School on Humour and Laughter, Bonn, 1-6 July 2019

The 19th International Summer School and Symposium on Humour and Laughter will be held in Bonn, Germany, from **July 1 to July 6, 2019**. Maria Bley, Eckart von Hirschhausen, Lisa Linge-Dahl and Lena Strassburger will be the local organizers. For more information, visit the summer school website at: <http://humoursummerschool.org>.

## 2019 ISHS Conference, Austin, Texas, 24-29 June 2019

*From Christian Hempelmann & Salvatore Attardo, Texas A&M-Commerce, Dale Koike, University of Texas, and Elisa Gironzetti, University of Maryland, 2019 ISHS Conference Organizers*

The University of Texas at Austin welcomes you to join an international and interdisciplinary group of humor researchers for the 2019 Conference of the International Society of Humor Studies. We will discuss humor from its basic definitions to the latest research strands and everything in between. Plenary speakers will include Sharon Lockyer (Brunel University London), Janetta Benton Rebold (Pace University, New York), Tom Ford (Western Carolina University), Villy Tsakona, (National and Kapodistrian University of Athens), Nancy Bell (Washington State University), Béatrice Priego Valverde (Aix-Marseille Université), and Herb Colston (University of Alberta). The Conference will also include featured papers and panels, a graduate student award plenary session, and the Fourth International Conference for the Philosophy of Humor.

Submissions can now be made for academic paper, posters, 90 or 180 minute multiple presenter panels, 90 minute workshops focused on humor research within the arts, humanities, and sciences. Suggested topics include, but are not limited to cognition and creativity, public and private discourse, individuality and individual Styles, culture and diversity, health and well-being, language and translation, media and digital technology, and performance. Abstracts of up to 200 words should be submitted by **March 15, 2019**, through the online submission form. Acceptance notifications will be sent out by **February 15, 2019** for early submissions, and by **March 30, 2019** for submissions received after February 1.

You can find out more about the conference, paper submissions, transportation, and accommodation at the **Conference website**, <https://www.tamuc.edu/ishs2019>. For conference information, you can also write to **Conference Registration at: [ishs2019@tamuc.edu](mailto:ishs2019@tamuc.edu)**. We are looking forward to seeing you in Austin!

## *Conference on 'Humor in the Beginning: Cultural Interactions of Laughter and the Comic in the First Phase of Asian Religions, Christianity and Islam', Soeterbeeck Conference Centre, Ravenstein, The Netherlands, 14-17 March 2019*

*Humor in the Beginning* invites scholars from different fields and academic traditions to return to the origins of Asian religions, Christianity, and Islam and investigate the complex relationship between religion and humor and laughter. For this conference, scholars are challenged to investigate the topic of religion and humor within the specific historical contexts that their sources provide. Sources include but are not restricted to (literary) prose texts, poetry and visual materials.

It is the wish of the organizers to stimulate fruitful comparisons between the work of scholars from the humanities and colleagues from fields such as sociology and gelotology. For more information, contact the conference organizer, Roald Dijkstra at [r.dijkstra@let.ru.nl](mailto:r.dijkstra@let.ru.nl).

## *Reminder: International Gelological Congress, St Petersburg, Russia, May 29-June 1, 2019*

The fifth International Gelological Congress is planned for St. Petersburg State University in Russia, from **May 29 to June 1, 2019**. The Congress will focus on the communicative potential of humor and laughter, but also the communicative ambivalence of laughter as a phenomenon, building and destroying communication. We will talk not only about interpersonal communication, but also about intercultural, transcultural, cross-cultural communication, sociology of laughter, the fear of laughter, tomfoolery, laughing aggression, communicative aspects, and social genesis of laughter.

The Congress invites participants from sociology, social philosophy, psychology, sociolinguistics, folkloristics, literary criticism and others. Interested participant should submit registration materials by October 1, 2018, and paper abstracts (up to 1000 words) by **February 25, 2019**. For more information, contact the congress chair **Sergei Troitckii** at [sergtroy@yandex.ru](mailto:sergtroy@yandex.ru)

---

## Honour for 2019 Conference Convenor and AHSN Review Panel member, Assoc. Prof. Kerry Mullan

In late November 2018, Kerry was installed as a Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Palmes Académiques by the French Honorary Consul-General in Melbourne: Madame Myriam Boisbouvier-Wylie-- a richly-deserved tribute to her work in support of French Studies and Franco-Australian relations.

Kerry is Associate Professor, Convenor of Languages in Global and Language Studies and Leader of Higher Degree Research in the Social and Global Studies Centre (SGSC), School of Global, Urban and Social Studies at RMIT University Melbourne. She is also President of ISFAR (Institute for the Study of French Australian Relations), a Member LCNAU (Languages and Cultures Network for Australian Universities). But she's not too busy to reply to you, email her at: [kerry.mullan@rmit.edu.au](mailto:kerry.mullan@rmit.edu.au) and you'll receive a courteous and prompt reply!



---

## Members' New Publications on Humour – January 2019

Michael Haugh and Lara Weinglass. 2018. Divided by a common language? Jocular quips & (non-) affiliative responses in initial interactions amongst American and Australian speakers of English. Special issue: Conversational humour: forms, functions and practices across cultures. *Intercultural Pragmatics* 15(4): 533-562. doi: 10.1515/ip-2018-0019

Angelina Hurley. 2019. Friday Essay: It's Not Funny To Us - An Aboriginal Perspective on Political Correctness and Humour. The Conversation, 22 February. At: <https://theconversation.com/friday-essay-its-not-funny-to-us-an-aboriginal-perspective-on-political-correctness-and-humour-111535>

\_\_\_\_\_. 2018. The Gospel According to Angelina. *Trick*, December 2018. Melbourne: The Wheeler Centre.

\_\_\_\_\_. 2018. Of Mice and Meh. *Witness, Performance Discussion Community*, 5 September 2018. At: <https://witnessperformance.com/of-mice-and-meh/> (accessed 26 November 2018). Reprinted in 'Blak Brow: The Blak Women's Edition', special edition, *The Lifted Brow*, 40, 26 November 2018. Melbourne: Brow Books.

\_\_\_\_\_. 2017. Pointing the Funny Bone. *RED INK: An International Journal of Indigenous Literature, Arts and Humanities* 19 (1). <https://redinkinternational.org/>

Anna-Sophie Jürgens. 2018. Comic in Suspenders: Jim Sharman's Circus Worlds in *The Rocky Horror* (Picture) Show. *Journal of Australian Studies* 42: 4, 507-523. DOI: 10.1080/14443058.2018.1531051

Daryl Peebles, Angela Martin, and Rob Hecker. 2018. The Value of Positive Humor in the Workplace: Enhancing Work Attitudes and Performance. In Francois Maon, Adam Lindgreen, Joelle Vanhamme, Robert J. Angell, Juliet Memery (eds). *Not All Claps and Cheers: Humor in Business and Society Relationships*. Milton Park, Abingdon UK, and NY: Routledge.

Barbara Plester. 2018. Just a Joke! A Critical Analysis of Organizational Humor. In Francois Maon, Adam Lindgreen, Joelle Vanhamme, Robert J. Angell, Juliet Memery (eds). *Not All Claps and Cheers: Humor in Business and Society Relationships*. Milton Park, Abingdon UK, and NY: Routledge.

## **New Book on Workplace Humour: contributions from two AHSN members**

Francois Maon, Adam Lindgreen, Joelle Vanhamme, Robert J. Angell, Juliet Memery (eds). *Not All Claps and Cheers: Humor in Business and Society Relationships*. Milton Park, Abingdon UK, and NY: Routledge.

Chapters by:

Daryl Peebles, Angela Martin, and Rob Hecker. "The Value of Positive Humor in the Workplace: Enhancing Work Attitudes and Performance"

Barbara Plester. "Just a Joke! A Critical Analysis of Organizational Humor"

[About This Book](#)

This original research anthology considers different angles from which to address the use of humour by individuals, groups and businesses in four sections:

- Humor, Business and Society
- From Society to Business: Humor's Use and Roles in Activist Movements
- From Business to Society: Humor's Use and Roles in Marketing, Corporate Communications, and Public Relations
- Society within Business: Humor's Use and Roles in the Workplace and in Organizations

[Part 4: Society Within business: Humor's Use and Roles in the Workplace and Organizations:](#)

4.1: Humor Styles in the Workplace, by Nicholas A. Kuiper and Nadia B. Maiolino

4.2: The Value of Positive Humor in the Workplace: Enhancing Work Attitudes and Performance, by Daryl Peebles, Angela Martin, and Rob Hecker,

4.3: Laughing Out Loud: How Humor Shapes Innovation Processes Within and Across Organizations, by Marcel Bogers, Alexander Brem, Trine Heinemann, and Elena Tavella

4.4: Laughing Apart: Humor and the Reproduction of Exclusionary Workplace Cultures, by Danielle J. Deveau and Rebecca Scott Yoshizawa

4.5: Does Verbal Irony Have a Place in the Workplace? by Roger J. Kreuz,

4.6: Just Kidding: When Workplace Humor is Toxic, by Linda Weiser Friedman and Hershey H. Friedman

4.7: Just a Joke! A Critical Analysis of Organizational Humor, by Barbara Plester

---

## **New Humour-related Books**

[The Psychology of Emotions and Humour in Buddhism](#)

**de Silva, Padmasiri 2018, *The Psychology of Emotions and Humour in Buddhism*, Palgrave Pivot, London.  
eBook ISBN: 978-3-319-97514-6 Hardcover ISBN: 978-3-319-97513-9 DOI: 10.1007/978-3-319-97514-6**

[About this book: Humour and Anger, Greed and Status Anxiety](#)

This book (80pp) contains the psychological dimensions of emotions and humour. Though there is a wealth of material on emotions and of humour separately, an integrated study of this sort is the first of its kind. Very little has been written on the Buddhist theory of humour. The study develops 'the incongruity theory of humour' as found in Soren Kierkegaard and Buddhism. This pioneering work presents an illuminating dialogue between the East and West. The author, Padmasiri de Silva, holds a PH.D in East West comparative philosophy and an Advanced Diploma in counselling developing a Mindfulness-based Emotions Focussed theory (EFT). The book is published by Palgrave Macmillan, 2018.

## Graphic Satire in the Soviet Union: Krokodil's Political Cartoons

Etty, John 2019, *Graphic satire in the Soviet Union: Krokodil's political cartoons*, University Press of Mississippi, Jackson.

### Cover Description

After the death of Joseph Stalin, Soviet-era Russia experienced a flourishing artistic movement due to relaxed censorship and new economic growth. In this new atmosphere of freedom, Russia's satirical magazine Krokodil (The Crocodile) became rejuvenated. John Etty explores Soviet graphic satire through Krokodil and its political cartoons. He investigates the forms, production, consumption, and functions of Krokodil, focusing on the period from 1954 to 1964.

Krokodil remained the longest-serving and most important satirical journal in the Soviet Union, unique in producing state-sanctioned graphic satirical comment on Soviet and international affairs for over seventy years. Etty's analysis of Krokodil extends and enhances our understanding of Soviet graphic satire beyond state-sponsored propaganda.

For most of its life, Krokodil consisted of a sixteen-page satirical magazine comprising a range of cartoons, photographs, and verbal texts. Authored by professional and nonprofessional contributors and published by Pravda in Moscow, it produced state-sanctioned satirical comment on Soviet and international affairs from 1922 onward. Soviet citizens and scholars of the USSR recognized Krokodil as the most significant, influential source of Soviet graphic satire. Indeed, the magazine enjoyed an international reputation, and many Americans and Western Europeans, regardless of political affiliation, found the images pointed and witty. Astoundingly, the magazine outlived the USSR but until now has received little scholarly attention.

### Endorsements

"This highly sophisticated and intellectually exciting study is a tour de force of visual and political analysis that overturns traditional notions of Cold War strategies. Etty surveys the long-lasting satirical magazine Krokodil (1922-2000) (2005-2008) as an officially approved publication lampooning the execrated West but also selectively criticizing aspects of Soviet life. He concentrates on the Thaw era, tackling the issue of the magazine's Sovietism from multiple perspectives even as, with the illuminating aid of Bakhtin, he moves far beyond the conventional wisdom of Krokodil as pure propaganda. With cartoons by such celebrated graphic satirists as the Kukryniksy and Ivan Semenov, the study engages transmedia theory while rigorously adhering to a non-partisan, historically informed base that takes into account the publication's telos, patterns of production, aesthetic/humorous considerations, and audience reception. The impeccable scholarship alone is worth the price of the book, though the Conclusion serves as a superlative summation not to be missed. Teeming with insights and rigorously argued, *Graphic Satire in the Soviet Union* is indisputably one of the most riveting monographs in Slavic Studies to appear in the last few years."

—Helena Gosילו, Professor of Slavic Studies at the Ohio State University, affiliate faculty in Comparative Studies, Film Studies, Folklore, Popular Culture, and WGSST. Author/editor of approximately twenty volumes, including *Putin as Celebrity and Cultural Icon* and *Fade from Red: The Cold War Ex-Enemy in Russian and American Film 1990-2005*

"A fascinating, lavishly illustrated, often astonishing study of Soviet Russia's key satirical journal with the focus where it belongs: its brilliant cartoons. Etty's reading of Krokodil through a Bakhtinian lens, as a form of Menippean satire, proves fabulously productive and illuminating; his scrutiny of the decade after Stalin's death, meanwhile, plugs a hole in the scholarship of Soviet caricature and visual culture that needed filling. It delights me to no end that this book will bring further attention to such great Soviet-era cartoonists as Boris Efimov, Iulii Ganf and Kukryniksi – names as familiar to Russian readers as Charles Schultz, Al Capp and Herblock are in the US."

—José Alaniz, Professor, Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, University of Washington, Seattle; author of *Komiks: Comic Art in Russia and Death, Disability and the Superhero: The Silver Age and Beyond*  
Link to Book Depository, for convenience: <https://bit.ly/2CIJqPG>

Kind regards,

John

[john.etty97@gmail.com](mailto:john.etty97@gmail.com)

---

## **The Lowitja Institute and the Starlight Children's Foundation**

The Lowitja Institute and the [Starlight Children's Foundation](#) have joined forces to create a post-graduate scholarship focusing on the health and resilience of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people, with opportunities to explore concepts such as the use of humour, wellbeing, laughter, play and imagination, amongst the possible areas of interest. The scholarship is for post-graduate study and offers:

- \$40,000 per year (\$30,000 stipend for research; \$10,000 for travel and related expenses)
- Mentoring & supervision support in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health research area
- Networking opportunities in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health research area through the Lowitja Institute Alumni network
- Ethics approval support
- Increased employment opportunities post-study

Essential criteria:

- Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person
- Enrolled or eligible to enrol in a PhD or Master degree at an approved Australian university or institution

For further details please contact Emma Somerville on [emma.somerville@lowitja.org.au](mailto:emma.somerville@lowitja.org.au) or tel: 03 8341 5517.

To apply for this scholarship go to the Lowitja Institute website and fill out the application form: <https://www.lowitja.org.au/starlight-childrens-foundation-phd-scholarship-application>

**Applications close 15 March 2019 (midnight AEDT)**

---

## **2nd Panel on Humor and Artificial Intelligence ISHS Conference, Austin Texas, June 2019**

### **CALL FOR PAPERS FOR A PANEL**

Humor is a universal and ubiquitous facet of human communication, but is among the hardest to process in artificial intelligence environments. The **2nd Panel on Humor and Artificial Intelligence** at ISHS 2019 solicits abstracts on the computational representation, detection, classification, interpretation, and generation of any and all forms of verbal or non-verbal humor.

Application areas include, but are not limited to:

- human-computer interaction
- computer-mediated communication
- intelligent writing assistants
- conversational agents
- machine and computer-assisted translation
- digital humanities
- natural language processing
- computer vision

## SUBMISSION DETAILS

Abstracts of up to 200 words should be submitted on the ISHS 2019 website by March 15, 2019. Please note that your submission is intended for this Panel in the remarks box of the submission site. Notification for abstracts received by February 1, 2019 will be on February 15, 2019, which will allow authors to meet the early (discounted) registration deadline of March 1, 2019. All other abstracts will have notification on March 30, 2019, in time for late conference registration on April 1, 2019. Authors of accepted abstracts will give a 30-minute presentation (20 minutes talk + 10 minutes for questions) at the conference. The conveners are presently making arrangements for full papers to be published in a special journal issue; details TBA.

ISHS Conference website: [www.tamuc.edu/ishs2019](http://www.tamuc.edu/ishs2019) The panel page can be found here: <http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/colleges/humanitiesSocialSciencesArts/departments/literatureLanguages/new/sandevents/2019-ISHS-Conference/HumorAI.aspx>

**Christian F. Hempelmann, PhD**  
**Associate Professor of Computational Linguistics**  
**Director, Ontological Semantic Technology Lab**  
Department of Literature and Languages  
P.O. Box 3011 | Commerce, TX 75429-3011  
Tel. 903.886.5260 | Fax: 903.886.5980 | [www.tamuc.edu/ontology](http://www.tamuc.edu/ontology)  
**Texas A&M University–Commerce**

---

## **Bi-Lingual French-English Two-day workshop on “The Languages of Humour”**

4 and 5 April 2019, Université de Bourgogne-Dijon

organised by: Will NOONAN (MCF TIL)

Corinne FRANCOIS-DENEVE (MCF CPTC)

(founding members of the RIRH humour research group, <https://rirh.hypotheses.org/>)

Focusing on the theme “The Languages of Humour”, this two-day workshop aims to explore how approaches drawn from disciplines such as translation studies, (inter)cultural studies, sociolinguistics, performance studies and audiovisual adaptation can be combined to help understand the complex role played by humour in a globalised and multicultural society. Humour studies has come to be recognised as a (somewhat) respectable academic field, and the founding of the French humour research group RIRH (2017) mirrors the growth of interest in the topic in other countries and language areas. However, the wide range of approaches to the topic, and the equally broad (and sometimes contentious) set of questions it implies, often leaves scholars searching both for connections between different linguistic and cultural manifestations of humour and for a properly interdisciplinary academic metalanguage. Both these concerns are central to the planned workshop, and to the relevant focus areas of the two research centres involved (“Modèles et discours” for EA4182-TIL; “Littératures, arts majeurs, arts mineurs” for EA4178-CPTC).

The workshop represents the second of three research events planned by the founders of RIRH, following a two-day workshop on “Les scènes de l’humour” hosted by the Université Bordeaux Montaigne in March 2018, and a planned international conference on “Les publics de l’humour” to be hosted by the Université Sorbonne Nouvelle in Spring 2020. These events aim to stimulate interdisciplinary exchange between humour researchers and practitioners in France, as well as to develop links with groups in the French-speaking world (e.g. the Observatoire de l’humour in Québec) and beyond (e.g. the International Society for Humour Studies, the Centre for Comedy Studies Research at Brunel University-London, and the Australasian Humour Studies Network).

Scheduled from early afternoon on April 4 2019 until the end of the day of April 5, the workshop address two linked questions. The first concerns humour “[lost] in translation”, the “translatability” of humour, and more

broadly the question of how humour can (or cannot) “pass” from one language or culture to another. The second question, following on from the first, concerns the notion of “intercultural humour”, including the problems of how to appraise humour judged as offensive and/or racist, of whether languages or cultures are legitimate targets of humour, and of who can legitimately laugh at (or with) whom in a given set of circumstances. As with the 2018 event in Bordeaux, the workshop aims to bring together perspectives from humour researchers and practitioners.

In order to address these questions, the program will be organised into three complementary thematic strands:

- Strand 1: humour “[lost] in translation”?
- Strand 2: Humour and cultural transfer, with a focus on Francophone humour from outside France
- Strand 3: Towards a working understanding of “intercultural humour”?

Workshop attendees will be invited to participate in a “fringe” evening on April 4, which will use the discussion of humour “[lost] in translation” to help explore the problems of surtitling, subtitling and dubbing comic performance.

---

## University College London: Call for Papers – July 2019

### *On Laughter*

11 & 12 July 2019

Keynote speakers: Morten Kringelbach (Psychiatry);  
Yasmine Musharbash (Social Anthropology);  
Devorah Baum (Literary Studies)

To say the least, academics struggle with laughter. We can analyse jokes, dissect irony, theorize ‘the comic,’ and laugh ourselves, but when it comes to talking about laughter – often uncontrollable, sometimes inappropriate – we stop short. Perhaps it is too intimate, too revealing, too awkward.

‘On Laughter,’ a two-day conference hosted at the Institute of Advanced Studies at University College London, will address laughter itself. The humanities and the natural and social sciences all have something valuable to contribute. We invite scholars working across these areas to consider the following dimensions of laughter:

- Politics and laughter;

How do politics and laughter intersect? Who is allowed to laugh, and at what? Laughter can diminish, it can be resistant – and it can be many other things at the same time. What effect does laughter have on our political beliefs? When is laughter translatable to politics? How might laughter be gendered?

- Forms and performances of laughter;

How is laughter made? What are the strategies for producing laughter – narrative, performative, social? What are the cultural specificities? How have these forms/performances changed over time? What are its modes and genres – for example, irony, comedy, satire – and how do they work?

- Affects of laughter;

Laughter can both be a response to, and incite, certain feelings. It can be hostile, joyful, nervous, fearful, awkward, derisive, dismissive, patronizing, or even a sign of ‘madness.’ Which kinds of feelings make us laugh? What are the affectual consequences of laughing?

- The laughing body;

How is laughter embodied? What is the neurology of laughter – and can this help us to understand it socially? How do non-human animals laugh? How can laughter be induced physically (as with tickling)? How could laughter help us to understand concepts of self and personhood?

- The evolution, history, and ontogenesis of laughter;

Where does laughter come from evolutionarily, historically, and developmentally? What can we learn from looking at laughter across species? What role did/does laughter play in the development of trust, cooperation, and the origin of language? What role does laughter play in the lives of infants and children? How is laughter used to socialize? What are the histories of laughter?

- Authority and laughter;

What is the relationship between laughter and authority? How can laughter diminish authority? How can it re-institute power? How has the relationship between authority and laughter worked historically? In what forms? Who becomes the target?

- Morality and laughter.

What can't we laugh at? What are we required to laugh at? To whom do the rules apply? What work does laughing, or not laughing, do socially? How do ways of laughing become markers of group identity? How can laughter be used to make an individual or group more or less human?

We invite proposals for individual papers of approximately 15 minutes that address the above themes. Please send proposals to Alice Rudge and Andrew Dean, at [onlaughter@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:onlaughter@ucl.ac.uk), by 28 February. Please note which themes you are planning to address. Responses will be provided by mid-March.

---

## ***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](mailto:michael.meany@newcastle.edu.au) or Jessica at [jessica.davis@sydney.edu.au](mailto: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.