

MARCH 2010 AHSN E-NEWSLETTER

AHSN WEB-SITE <http://www.usyd.edu.au/humourstudies>

HOLD THE DATE: 2011 AHSN COLLOQUIUM TO BE HELD 19-20 FEBRUARY 2011 AT UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA, HOBART

At the conclusion of the recent successful AHSN Colloquium at Womens College, University of Sydney, it was announced that **the 2011 Colloquium would be held at the University Club of the University of Tasmania in Hobart, Saturday 19 – Sunday 20 February 2011. The Convenor is Daryl Peebles**, long-standing member of AHSN and post-graduate research student in the School of Management at University of Tasmania. His day job is with the Dept of Economic Development, Tourism and the Arts in the Tasmanian State Government, so he is well placed to advise about visiting the Apple Isle.

The Call for Papers will be posted in May/June in the next news-letter and on the AHSN webs-site, when details of the timetable, accommodation options and travel guidance will also be available.

As usual, there will be a Post-Graduate section, so please spread the word to any research students you are in touch with and also to colleagues supervising students in any discipline whose research projects deal with humour.

Don't hesitate to email Daryl or me directly with any queries (emails at foot of newsletter). In the meantime, many thanks, Daryl and we all look forward to a great event.

AUGMENTATION OF THE AHSN REVIEW PANEL

I am very pleased to advise that the following scholars have joined the AHSN Review Panel:

Arts and Humanities

Dr Susan Turnbull

Media and Cinema Studies, La Trobe University

Mr Will Noonan

English and French, University of Sydney and Université de Provence

History and Social Sciences

Dr Mark Rolfe

Social Science and International Studies, University of New South Wales

Dr Michael Lloyd

Social & Cultural Studies, Victoria University of Wellington

Thank you Susan, Will, Mark and Mike for being willing to offer your invaluable services in helping set high standards and provide guidance to the Colloquia and members of the AHSN e-list.

ISHS CONFERENCE, HONG KONG, 24-27 JUNE 2010

The 22nd Conference of the ISHS will be hosted by The City University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong, from 24 – 27 June 2010. For more information, visit the Conference website <http://ssteach4.ss.cityu.edu.hk/~ishs2010/Home.htm>

Proposals close 15 March 2010 but registration is open (with sliding scale of fees) until early June 2010. A strong representation of humour scholarship from Australia is already confirmed.

Note: there is a chance that the President of the ISHS, Em. Prof. Christie Davies, Sociology, University of Reading, will be visiting Australia in the weeks following the Conference to speak about his illuminating world-wide studies of joke-types (including ethnic jokes). Christie's love/hate affair with Australia (as he recounts in *The Mirth of Nations* 2002) began when he arrived at Adelaide University in the late 60s to lecture on English to Engineering students: a character-forming experience if ever there was one. More on this later.

SECOND CALL FOR PAPERS, 18TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY FOR FRENCH STUDIES, 30 SEPTEMBER-2 OCTOBER 2010

18th Annual Conference of the Australian Society for French Studies will be held at University of Sydney, 30 September-2 October, 2010 on the theme, *Playtime: formes, fonctions et théories du jeu*.

A 250 word abstract should be sent by April 12, 2010 to:
french.asfs2010@usyd.edu.au

How do we define "play"? Why do we play, with whom and for whom? What forms does our playfulness adopt, and what are its cultural specificities? We take the proliferation of research activity on play and the aesthetics of entertainment as an invitation to examine their role in our culture(s). This conference aims to explore French and francophone manifestations and strategies of play, across disciplinary and generic boundaries (literature, cinema, theatre, linguistics, philosophy, sociology, art), with particular emphasis on the social, ideological, pedagogical and aesthetic dimensions of ludicity. Artistic manifestations of playfulness and intrinsically playful practices (parlour games, board games, role-playing, video games and online gaming), whether pedagogically or socially motivated, will doubtless take centre stage. From role-play to fancy-dress, from carnival to puns, the conference will explore the affective reach of games, playfulness and ludicity, their signifying power and representational range, as well as the cultural role they... play.

We invite contributions on the following:

- *Playfulness in art, the art of playfulness
 - *Masques, masks, disguises
 - *Androgyny
 - *Carnival, Mardi Gras and other large-scale popular events
 - *Alternate realities (subversive, fantastic or hybrid)
 - *Virtual realities, avatars, video and online gaming
 - *Role-play, word-play, literary games (in practice and/or in the classroom)
 - *Sports
 - *Literary games and genres: the grotesque, the burlesque, the absurd; humour across genres
 - *Jokes, novelties, pranks and hoaxes
 - *Games of seduction, desire and pleasure, both intellectual and physical
 - *Simulation on screen, special effects, CGI, the actor's craft
- Proposals relating to these or other aspects of French Studies, in either French or English, will be considered.

The Organising Committee: Dr Michelle Royer, Dr Peter Cowley, DR Françoise Grauby, French Studies, University of Sydney

<http://www.arts.usyd.edu.au/conferences/index.php/french-studies/ASFS2010>

XII ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR LUSO-HISPANIC HUMOR STUDIES, UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, 21-23 OCTOBER 2010

The International Society for Luso-Hispanic Humor Studies announces the Call for Papers for the XII Annual Conference to be co-sponsored by **the University of Minnesota (College of Liberal Arts, Department of Spanish and Portuguese Studies) and Gustavus Adolphus College (Department of Modern Languages, Literatures, and Cultures)**.

Proposals for papers and panels on any aspect of Luso-Hispanic humor are invited. Presentations may be in English, Spanish, or Portuguese and may involve any facet of Luso-Hispanic humor from any period or genre wherever Spanish or Portuguese are spoken. Presentations may focus on but are not limited to the following fields: literature, culture, linguistics, semiotics, discourse analysis, art, music, cartoons and graphic humor, film, humor theory, and cultural history. Paper should be free of excessive jargon and accessible to the non-specialist. Presentations will be limited to twenty minutes. A refereed volume of papers presented at the Conference will be published. Participation in the Conference is limited to members of the International Society for Luso-Hispanic Humor Studies. For further information on the Society and membership (US \$20), please contact Dr. Paul Seaver at pseaver@axs2000.net, or Dr. Alita Kelley at kak7@psu.edu.

General Information

Place: University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA.

Registration: \$80 regular, \$40 student with ID, by August 1 2010. Thereafter and on site: \$100 regular and \$50 student. Prices are in US Dollars.

Graduate Student Scholarship: Graduate students who wish to compete for the one scholarship available (which pays for the Society Membership and Conference Registration) must **send the abstract by May 30 and the completed paper by July 15**. Please send the papers to: mkalberm@gustavus.edu

Abstracts: Abstracts should not exceed one page (with an optional page for bibliography), in Microsoft Word format. They may be written in English, Spanish, or Portuguese. Please include: name, affiliation, e-mail, phone, fax and regular mailing address. Send abstracts to: islhhs@umn.edu

Organizing Committee: Ana Forcinito, Marisa Kalbermatten, Francisco Ocampo

ARE YOU OVER 40? EVEN BETTER, OVER 50, OVER 60? WILLING TO SPEND 15 MINUTES ON-LINE?

Join 300 people from all over the (English speaking) world and contribute to Willi Ruch's humour research in psychology at University of Zurich. Willi is surveying a range of what he tactfully calls "older people" and requests the favour of 15 minutes of your time to complete **an on-line survey at**

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=bLzWrVxppRmBs7aakRvapA_3d_3d

If you are willing to pass this on to some friends and family in the right age-group, Willi would be most grateful. This is not a formal experiment, but relies on a snowball system to gain some diversity of people and group results from a number of countries. It is not important whether you are yourself in research and Willi assures the survey is "harmless and complying with the local [Zurich] research ethic committee requirements"

Dr Jessica Milner Davis
Honorary Associate
School of Letters Art and Media
University of Sydney Australia
jessica.davis@sydney.edu.au

Mr Daryl Peebles
2011 AHSN Colloquium Convenor
daryl.peebles@bigpond.com
Bus Ph (03) 62335875 Fax (03) 62335881 Mob 0418 972 420
