

Subject:

AHSN - AHSN November E-Newsletter

From:

ahsn-members@mail.usyd.edu.au

Date:

14/11/2011 6:18 PM

To:

AHSN-members <ahsn-members@mail.usyd.edu.au>

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

[Please note: apologies that this is NOT a hot-link; please cut and paste it into your web browser.

[Please also note: This e-list is NOT interactive and replies/comments should be sent to

Jessica -- email address at bottom of page]

LECTURE BY BARAK KUSHNER, CORPUS CHRISTI COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE,
AT SYDNEY UNIVERSITY, MONDAY 13 DECEMBER 2011, 4.15-6.00PM

Barak Kushner (Fellow of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge), will give a Guest Lecture for Members and Guests of the AHSN, and of The Oriental Society of Australia (OSA), in The Refectory Room (H113) Main Quad (S-W cnr, basement level), University of Sydney, on 13 December 2011, 4.15pm Refreshments and meet the lecturer, Lecture 5.00-6.00pm. There is no charge for attendance and refreshments, but if you would also like to attend the optional dinner afterwards at a local Turkish restaurant nearby (complete with Turkish musician), please email Jessica (email below) as numbers need to be signalled in advance.

Barak's topic is: "Nothing to laugh at: Chinese humor and the image of Japan".

Humour is as much a cultural force in China as it is in other East Asian regions, although in the English-speaking world we might not always regard the offerings as ôfunnyö, in the strict laugh-out-loud sense. As a deep-seated barometer of social attitudes, humour is an informative historical set of values through which to examine the last century of Sino-Japan relations. Wartime and post-war layers of Chinese humour shaped an enduring motif of the guizi or ôdevilö image of Japanese soldiers. However, on the eve of the twenty-first century, these accumulated layers of representations of Japan have given rise to a marked change û Japanese depicted not only as humorous ôdevilsö but also as corruptible human entities.

Barak Kushner received his PhD in history from Princeton University and works on wartime propaganda, humour and media as well as history of Sino-Japanese relations. He is a Senior Lecturer in modern Japanese history at the University of Cambridge. His many publications include a parallel study to the present topic û of Japanese propaganda cartoons against the Chinese, ôLaughter as materiel: The mobilization of comedy in Japan's fifteen-year war" International History Review 26, no. 2 (June 2004): 300-330. He is a contributor to Humour in Chinese Life and Letters: Modern and Traditional Approaches (eds. J. Chey and J. Milner Davis, forthcoming HKUP).

18th AHSN COLLOQUIUM ON "VARIETIES OF HUMOUR AND LAUGHTER",
3-4 FEBRUARY 2012 UNIVERSITY HOUSE, ANU, CANBERRA -- DRAFT
TIMETABLE AND ABSTRACTS NOW AVAILABLE ON WEBSITE

The Preliminary Timetable and Abstracts for our next Colloquium are now posted on the AHSN website (courtesy Will Noonan in Paris). Please visit the Events Page of the AHSN website (see above) and follow the appropriate links. This year we received the largest number of proposals ever (40), and thanks for hard work in reviewing so many are due to the members of the AHSN Review Panel. Scheduling has also been something of a challenge...But a rich and excellent program is the result.

Registration for both presenters and attendees is open with a concessional rate for students and the unwaged. For the Registration Form click on the Registration side-bar link of the Events Page and download the Form. Follow instructions to fill it out, make your payment to the University of Sydney by cheque or credit card, and return the completed document by email or regular mail.

Registration closes at 5.00pm on 16 January, but please submit your form as early as you can. To ensure that receipts are issued before Christmas, you will need to send completed forms in by 1 December 2011. Return completed forms by email to me or mail (NOT by fax: we found these were likely to go astray) to the School address given on the form. Receipts issue some 2-3 weeks after processing and will be addressed in the name and contacts of the person registering.

Accommodation information and booking advice is also available on the Events page of the website (click on the Information sidebar).

Sincere thanks to Jan Lloyd Jones and the College of Arts and Social Sciences, ANU, for making this event possible and for subsidizing the registration of ANU members (enquiries to Jessica, please).

KEYNOTE SPEAKER FOR AHSN 18th COLLOQUIUM (ANU, 3-4 FEBRUARY 2012):
DR CHRIS REA, UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Christopher G. Rea PhD, Assistant Professor of Chinese Literature in the Dept of Asian Studies at The University of British Columbia, is joining the Australian Centre on China in the World at the ANU as a Postdoctoral Fellow. His Keynote presentation at the AHSN Colloquium will be titled, "Riding the Grass Mud Horse: Parody and Spoofing (e'gao) on the Chinese Internet". He summarizes this way:

Back in the heady days of 2009, a mythical beast galloped its way across Chinese cyberspace and into the lexicon of China-watchers, netizens, and cultural cognoscenti around the world. The Grass Mud Horse (caonima) looked as adorable as an alpaca but sounded like a big FU to the Chinese Communist Party and its legions of cybercensors. The GMH was soon celebrated as an icon of e'gao, a sub-culture of spoofing and parodic irreverence that in the 21st century has grown into one of the biggest stories to date of the Chinese internet age. This talk considers the question "What, if anything, is different about Chinese parody in cyberspace?", by highlighting several of the unique features of e'gao culture, including its use of Chinese-language puns and its indebtedness to Mainland China's material culture of rampant knock-offs known as shanzhai. Finally, it asks: Jolly on, Grass Mud Horse, but, given how fast internet trends rise and fall, does this steed still have legs, or has it run its course?

Chris was born in Berkeley, California and raised on a strict diet of Monty Python. He studied Chinese at Dartmouth College and Columbia University, with a break in between to work in the exciting fields of insurance consulting, DSL brokering, and bank regulation. Since receiving his PhD in 2008 he has taught modern Chinese literature at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada. He recently edited the book *Humans, Beasts, and Ghosts: Stories and Essays* by Qian Zhongshu (Columbia, 2011) and will be at ANU in 2012 to finish writing a monograph on the literary and cultural history of laughter in modern China.

XIII ANNUAL CONFERENCE, THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR LUSO-HISPANIC HUMOR STUDIES, LISBON, 16-18 October 2012: CALL FOR PAPERS

The International Society for Luso-Hispanic Humor Studies announces the call for papers for its thirteenth annual conference, co-sponsored by the Centro de Literaturas e Culturas Lusófonas e Europeias (CLEPUL) de Faculdade de Letras da Universidade de Lisboa, Fundação para a Ciências e Tecnologia. Proposals for papers or panels on any aspect of Luso-Hispanic literature or culture are invited. Presentations may be in English, Spanish or Portuguese, and involve any aspect 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, folklore, semiotics, discourse analysis, art, music, cartoons and graphic humor, film, popular culture, humor theory and cultural history. Papers must be free of excessive jargon and accessible to the non-specialist and reading time will be limited to twenty minutes.

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 (\$US20), contact Dr. Paul Seaver, President of the Society at pseaver@axs2000.net (416 N. Matlack St., West Chester, PA., 19380).

THE CONFERENCE:

PLACE: Faculdade de Letras da Universidade de Lisboa, Portugal

REGISTRATION: \$US80 regular; \$30 student (with official ID) by 1 August 2012.

Thereafter and on site: \$90 regular and \$40 student.

ABSTRACTS: Abstracts should not exceed 400 words (1 page) in MicrosoftWord format and may be in any of the three languages of the Society. Please include the following information: name, affiliation, e-mail, fax and standard mailing address. Proposals are to be received by 31 March 2012. Submissions will be reviewed for acceptance as soon as possible after the date they are received.

Please send proposals to:

Dr. Laura Areias

Email: lauraareias@hotmail.com

Mail: CLEPUL, Faculdade de Letras da Universidade de Lisboa

Alameda da Universidade

1600-214 Lisboa, Portugal

REMINDER: ISHS BIENNIAL ELECTIONS COMING UP, 2 AHSN MEMBERS CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION TO THE BOARD

AHSN Review Panel member, Dr Bruce Findlay (Psychology, Swinburne University of Technology) and Prof. Goh Abe (Tokushima Bunri University, Japan) have both accepted nomination from the Nominating Committee of the International

Society for Humor Studies to stand for election as members of the ISHS Executive Board in upcoming elections later this year. A new President will also be elected as well as 2 new Board members.

If you would like to e-vote in these elections, please ensure you have renewed your ISHS membership. Unless you wish to add a subscription to the journal, Humor: International Journal of Humor Research, the annual fee is only \$US30 (forms and info at: <http://www.hnu.edu/ishs/MembersCenter.htm> or email Exec. Sec. Dr Martin Lampert, Holy Names University, Oakland, Calif.: ishs@hnu.edu)

In January 2012, Prof Giseline Kuipers, Norbert Elias Professor of Sociology at Erasmus University, Rotterdam, and University of Amsterdam, will take office as the new Editor of the Journal, H:IJHR. She is the author of Good Humor, Bad Taste: A Sociology of the Joke (Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter, 2006), a study of the taste-cultures of humour in supposedly class-free Netherlands.

REPORT FROM MIKE LLOYD (VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON), AHSN
REVIEW PANEL MEMBER: "Watch These Movies"

Recently I watched two movies useful for thinking about how humour is connected to the serious realm. The movies û Boy and The Trip - are a strong reminder that unremitting comedy is never enough in itself. Boy is a 2010 New Zealand movie, directed by Taika Waititi who also stars in the movie. It is set on the East Cape of New Zealand in an isolated seaside community with strong Maori presence. The movie is described as being æexceedingly hilariousÆ. Certainly, the opening five minutes are a running gag that would make most laugh, even if non-New Zealanders may struggle to understand some of the specifics. An interesting thing about the movie is the serious social commentary that goes hand in hand with the humour. At heart it deals with what we all know from social statistics: Maori people in New Zealand come out on the wrong side of the statistics, whether it be for criminal prosecution, drug taking, propensity to violence, poverty rates, and so on. Boy goes beyond the statistics and shows us one case of a Maori father who has lost touch with his children, through imprisonment and drug taking. These are not light themes, hence the interest of the movie: how it combines laugh out loud moments along with an obvious, but subtly made, serious social commentary.

The Trip, screening in 2011, stars two well known British comedians û Steve Coogan and Rob Brydon. It is set in London and the north of England and the pretext for the comedic interaction between the two is a road trip around prestigious restaurants to review the food. There are many very hilarious scenes, some of which have already been posted on Youtube. The considerable dialogue where both actors compete for the best impersonation of Michael CaineÆs voice is a comedy gem. But again the interesting point about the movie is that it is not full of this kind of humour. It is punctuated by such laughs, but as with Boy, there is a serious reflection going on even as the humour is made. It has to do with what

it is to be a modern man, this time in mid-life, and again with how a father connects with his children after a separation from their mother. A movie full of two comedians competing with each other to be funny would probably wear thin after 20 minutes, but this movie manages to be both funny and not too sermonisingly serious. Watch them. Feedback please to mike.lloyd@vuw.ac.nz

MEMBERS' NEW PUBLICATIONS

Debra Aarons (University of New South Wales), *Jokes and the Linguistic Mind* (Routledge, 2012), an investigation of linguistic jokes that play on some aspect of the structure and function of language. Linguistic jokes are shown to tap the tacit knowledge

of language that all users have.

Details at: <http://www.taylorandfrancis.com/books/details/9780415890496/>

Conal Condren (University of Queensland), *Hobbes, The Scriblerians and the History of Philosophy*, (Pickering and Chatto, 2011), a study of the satirical, Lucianic aspect of philosophical controversy in 17th and early 18th centuries in England, that sees satire

as a significant aspect of the work of Thomas Hobbes and, by exploring the satirical dimension of those who attacked him, offers a new perspective on the nature of philosophy during this period. Details at:

http://www.pickeringchatto.com/monographs/hobbes_the_scriblerians_and_the_history_of_philosophy

Jessica Milner Davis (University of Sydney), " On the Theory of Humours: Preamble to

Rey Tiquia, *The qi That Got Lost in Translation*. In J. Milner Davis and J. Chey, eds.,

Humour in Chinese Life and Letters: Classical and Traditional Approaches (Hong Kong

University Press, 2011, 31-36), a comparison of Western and Eastern theories of "The Humours".

Details at: <http://www.hkupress.org/Common/Reader/Products/>

----- . *The Fool and the Path to Spiritual Insight*. In Hans Geybels and Walther van Herck, eds., *Humour and Religion: Challenges and Ambiguity* (Continuum, 2011, 218-247), an exploration of some traditional links between folly and personal wisdom.

Details at:

<http://www.continuumbooks.com/books/detail.aspx?BookId=157692&SearchType=Basic>

Best wishes to all for the end of a busy year!

Jessica

Dr Jessica Milner Davis

AHSN Co-ordinator

jessica.davis@sydney.edu.au

AHSN-members mailing list

AHSN-members@mail.usyd.edu.au

<http://mailman.ucc.usyd.edu.au/mailman/listinfo/ahsn-members>