

AHSN - AHSN December 2012 e-Newsletter

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

UPDATE ON 19TH AHSN COLLOQUIUM, 7-9 FEBRUARY 2013, UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE, CITY CAMPUS

HAVE YOU REGISTERED YET? If not, please do so as soon as possible. Registration is required for all participants, presenting or not. Please visit the AHSN website and follow the links to Events, Registration, to download the registration form which should be returned to the indicated address at University of Newcastle (NOT University of Sydney, this year).

EXCELLENT VALUE ACCOMMODATION OFFER : The 19th Colloquium's sponsor and preferred accommodation provider, Quest Apartments, is offering delegates special rates for accommodation during the Colloquium. They have reserved apartments for us which are not available for booking by the general public, but ONLY UNTIL 6 JANUARY 2013. So if you have not already booked, please hurry. Email: groups.newcastle@questapartments.co.au

Head your email: "Attention: Roxley Blacker". Please state that you are attending the AHSN Colloquium and specify whether a one, two or three bedroom apartment is wanted.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND QUERIES: Please contact the Co-convenors:

Conjoint Prof. Michael Ewans: Michael.Ewans@newcastle.edu.au

Mr Michael Meaney: Michael.Meany@newcastle.edu.au

Also, Michael Ewans Tel: 0434 902 350 or 02 4948 2747

2013: 13TH INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL AND SYMPOSIUM ON HUMOUR AND LAUGHTER: THEORY, RESEARCH AND APPLICATIONS, AT OTTO-VON-GUERICKE UNIVERSITY, MAGDEBURG, SAXONY-ANHALT, GERMANY

Dates: 22nd July to 27th July 2013 Course Director: Professor Willibald Ruch

Local Organiser: Professor Holger Kersten, Otto-von-Guericke University

ISS13 will take place in Magdeburg, Germany. Preliminary information including contact and enquiry addresses is at: <http://www.humoursummerschool.org/13>

Prof. Dr. Holger Kersten

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Take a look and come back to see updates as the program takes shape. We hope it is of interest to you and that you will consider coming to Magdeburg.

Best wishes, Willibald Ruch

SMILES ARE EVERYWHERE: BOOK AND TRAINING PROGRAMS

For the past 18 month, AHSN-members Dr Peter Spitzer (Humour Foundation, Australia) and Prof. Bernie Warren (Drama in Education, University of Windsor, Canada) have been collaborating on Smiles Are Everywhere: Integrating Clown-Play into Healthcare Practice (forthcoming, Routledge, 2013). Aimed primarily at healthcare professionals and artists working in healthcare settings, material in the book is also applicable to settings such as schools and seniors centres. It will be a resource for students as well as for educators providing courses, workshops or training for work in healthcare settings.

Drs Warren & Spitzer have developed two developmental programs from their collaboration, based on the themes of the book:

Smiles are Everywhere – aimed at artists, educators and the general public

The Art of Medicine - aimed at physicians, and practitioners in allied health professions and the arts in and for health

Both programs are flexibly designed so that elements can be offered as stand-alone events, or delivered in various formats eg. a lecture or half day /full day experiential workshop.

Brochures can be downloaded from: <http://smilesareeverywhere.com/publications/>

For Australia, Prof. Warren will be in Australia on sabbatical from 21 February 2013 for 3 weeks. Spitzer/Warren will be available to deliver these programs: Feb 22 and 23, March 2–7; and 9–11. If you would like to discuss hosting one of them, please contact Peter Spitzer: spitzer@swiftdsl.com.au

Outside Australia, if you would like to discuss hosting one of these programs, please contact Bernie Warren: bernie_warren@hotmail.com

**REQUEST FOR SUPPORT FROM AHSN MEMBER AND DOCTORAL
CANDIDATE, MICHAEL MEANEY, UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE**

Michael writes:

Dear Humour Researchers, My PhD project is composed of two parts: a creative project; and an exegesis. For the creative project I have developed a pair of online 'chat bots' that interact as 'comedian' and 'straight man' when a human user delivers them a topic. The project interrogates a range of theoretical positions through a practice-based methodology. In particular, it examines the interaction of human and non-human actors in the scriptwriting and performance of comedy.

I would like to invite you to comment on the performance of my comedy team, The Atomic Playboy and The Radiation Romeo. Please visit my blog at:

<http://aimlhumour.blogspot.com.au/>

You'll see at the top of the page a button link to "Play with Atomic and Romeo". This will spawn a new window containing the Flash interface. The interface contains operating instructions and the back-story of the characters. To leave a comment, click on the button, "Please leave your comments here". The blog acts as my production journal. The aim of using a blog for the journal is to engage with an existing community of practice thereby generating a richer and deeper source of data. Thanks in advance,

Michael M Meany

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PS – My chat-bots, Atomic and Romeo, were invited to enter Funniest Computer Ever Competition. Wish me luck!

THE RISE OF THE TRAMP: THE GENIUS OF CHARLIE CHAPLIN 1914-1917, JANUARY 2013, SYDNEY: SILENT FILM COMEDY SEASON

On January 6, 13, 20 and 27 Australia's Silent Film Festival is pleased to present restored classic silent film comedy by the legendary screen icon of comedy himself, Charlie Chaplin. Chaplin's spectacular rise to fame in the 1910s was phenomenal, and he was the world's most famous actor/comedian by the end of World War I. This special tribute dedicated to the Master of early cinema comedy focuses on this early period during which he worked at three studios: Keystone (creators of the Keystone Cops), Essanay and Mutual; the latter studios allowing Chaplin much greater creative freedom. The season runs for four weeks with three sessions of 45 minutes on each Sunday. The venue is the Metcalfe Auditorium in the State Library of NSW, Macquarie Street, Sydney. In all 12 sessions with 24 majestic shorts from the Tramp shall be presented.

Discounted Festival Passes to multiple sessions are available. Details are at website below. Digital presentation with soundtrack.

WEEK ONE

Session 1 @ 12.30-1.30pm KEYSTONE: Mabel's Married Life / ESSANAY: The Bank

Session 2 @ 1.45-2.45pm KEYSTONE: The Rounders / ESSANAY: The Champion

Session 3 @ 3-4pm MUTUAL: The Floorwalker / MUTUAL: The Fireman

WEEK TWO

Session 1 KEYSTONE: The New Janitor / ESSANAY: Carmen

Session 2 KEYSTONE Laughing gas / ESSANAY The Tramp

Session 3 MUTUAL: The Vagabond / MUTUAL: One AM

WEEK THREE

Session 1 KEYSTONE The Masquerader / ESSANAY Police

Session 2 KEYSTONE A Film Johnnie / ESSANAY: Work

Session 3 MUTUAL: The Count / MUTUAL: The Pawnshop

WEEK FOUR

Session 1 KEYSTONE Caught in the Rain / KEYSTONE Dough and Dynamite

Session 2 MUTUAL: Behind the Screen / MUTUAL: The Rink

Session 3 MUTUAL: The Immigrant / MUTUAL: The Adventurer

AUSTRALIA'S SILENT FILM FESTIVAL www.ozsilentfilmfestival.com.au

**FOURTEENTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY
FOR LUSO-HISPANIC HUMOR STUDIES: CALL FOR PAPERS (repeat notice)**

Co-sponsored by the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, University of
Missouri-Kansas City, 17-19 October 2013

The International Society for Luso-Hispanic Humor Studies announces the call for papers for its fourteenth annual conference. 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, emotics, 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. 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 (\$20USD), contact Dr. Paul Seaver, pseaver@axs2000.net (416 N. Matlack St., West Chester, PA., 19380).

Keynote speakers: Luce López-Baralt, Universidad de Puerto Rico-Río Piedras , Bruno Damiani, Catholic University of America, Washington D.C.

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE CONFERENCE: PLACE: University of
Missouri-Kansas City, Kansas City, Missouri, USA

REGISTRATION: \$90 regular; \$30 student (with official ID) by August 1, 2013. Thereafter and on site: \$110 regular and \$40 student.

ABSTRACTS: Abstracts between 250-300 words (1 page) in Microsoft Word format and may be in any of the three languages of the society (English, Portuguese, Spanish). Please include the following information: name, affiliation, e-mail, fax and standard mailing address. Proposals are to be received by 12 April 2013. Submissions will be reviewed for acceptance as soon as possible after they are received. Please send proposals to:

Dr. Louis Imperiale E-mail: imperialel@umkc.edu

Department of Foreign Languages & Literature, 5100 Rockhill Road, Kansas City, Missouri 64110-2499, USA

Graduate Students! A prize opportunity for Best Graduate Student Paper, XIV Conference of the International Society for Luso-Hispanic Humor Studies. One prize of \$500 + conference registration fee + one year membership in the Society, open to current graduate students

Completed papers should be sent no later than 1 March 2013 to imperialel@umkc.edu For further information, contact Paul Seaver (pseaver@axs2000.net)

Best wishes for the festive Season to you all,

Jessica Milner Davis
Australasian Humour Studies Network Co-ordinator
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