

## **AHSN MARCH 2013 E-NEWSLETTER**

**Sent:**

### **HOLD THOSE DATES: 2014 ANNUAL COLLOQUIUM OF AHSN, WELLINGTON, NEW ZEALAND, 14-15 FEBRUARY**

The 2014 annual colloquium of AHSN, will take place in Wellington, New Zealand, 14-15 February, at the National Library. The conference theme will be “Anything Goes”.

The details of the Call of Proposals will be announced in April. As usual papers will be welcome on any humour-related topic, but particularly on the limits of humour and about those occasions when professional and everyday humourists go too far. Since this is the first AHSN colloquium to be held in New Zealand (ie. not Australia), attention will be particularly welcome for the issue of whether “anything goes” in trans-Tasman joking. Given the close relations between the two countries, is it in fact possible to “go too far” in antipodean joking?

The colloquium is likely to include contributions from the New Zealand Cartoon Archive (housed in the National Library), and the New Zealand Film Archive and a focus on cartooning and film will also be welcome.

The National Library of New Zealand is very close to all the action of downtown Wellington, including Parliament, Te Papa (the National Museum), the Botanical Gardens, the waterfront, bars, cafes and so on. Everything required, including accommodation, is within a 20 minute walk from the venue.

The Conference Convenor is AHSN Review Panel member, Mike Lloyd (Sociology, Victoria University of Wellington), with assistance from his VUW colleagues, Marco Sonzogni (Italian, Translation Studies), and Meredith Marra (Linguistics).

For more information, email Mike Lloyd at: [Mike.Lloyd@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:Mike.Lloyd@vuw.ac.nz)

### **REPORT ON 19<sup>TH</sup> AHSN COLLOQUIUM, UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE, 7-9 FEBRUARY 2013**

The recent Colloquium was a great success, with a total of 37 papers presented. There were 52 registered attendees, equally the high numbers attending the 2012 ANU event. Seven presenters were from overseas, two from New Zealand, two from the USA and one each from Malaysia, Estonia, and Poland.

A total of 13 research students from 10 universities presented their research and received valuable feedback from the cross-disciplinary audience of humour scholars. Sydney and Newcastle led the way with 4 students each with others from ANU, Melbourne, Deakin, Swinburne, UTS, Flinders and James Cook Universities and the USM Penang.

A \$1000.00 grant from the University of Newcastle's Faculty of Science and IT funded inter alia three post-graduate scholarships, awarded to Mr Mark Azzopardi (University of Sydney), Mr Dirk Gibb (University of Newcastle) and Claire Duffy (Deakin University).

Keynotes and invited speakers included:

A/Prof Susan Seizer, Indiana University

Mr Mahmud Farjami, Sains Universiti Malaysia (Graduate Student Awardee, 2012 ISHS)

Dr Phillip McIntyre, University of Newcastle

Prof Wladyslaw Chlopicki, Jagellonian University, Krakow

Dr Liisi Laineste, Estonian Literary Museum, Tartu

Em. Prof. Ken Dutton, University of Newcastle

The mystery speaker, Prof Hugh Moore, Independent Scholar of Anaheim, Calif., outed himself in the course of a brilliant address on "The Comic Monolog as a Business Tool: How Conference and other Business Events have become Showbiz" by revealing to a delighted (if partly bemused) audience that he was in fact doing showbiz -- in the persona of Mr Rodney Marks, Corporate Comedian and former AHSN Review Pannelist. Congratulations on a tour de force/farce, Rodney!

There were 3 screenings of films based on research projects, covering a study of American road-comics, humour interventions in aged care, and a new Indigenous sit-com for international audiences.

Media coverage was at unprecedented levels, in part a response to the theme of the conference but also to the participation of many uniquely qualified international visitors and award winning students.

Copies of the work of Tasmanian cartoonist, Jon Kudelka, were presented to invited speakers. Dinners were excellent, I believe a fair amount of Hunter Valley wine was sampled without any ill-effects and many friendships made and cemented.

Our sincere thanks to the tireless Co-convenors, "the Two Michaels", Conjoint Prof. Michael Ewans and Michael Meaney; and to the hosting University and Town of Newcastle. More news follows.

### **MEDIA COVERAGE FOR 19TH AHSN COLLOQUIUM, UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE**

Michael Ewans (University of Newcastle)

NBN TV News, live interview, Thursday 7 February, 6:10 pm

ABC Radio National, Drive Program, interview, broadcast Friday 8 February

Michael Meany (University of Newcastle)

*Newcastle Herald* op-ed piece, published Thursday 7 February

<http://www.theherald.com.au/story/1283523/opinion-nothing-funny-about-humour-conference/>

ABC Central Coast, interview, Wednesday 6 February

ABC Rural and Regional (Country Wide), broadcast Monday 11 February

KOFM, news interview, broadcast Thursday 7 February

Angus McLachlan (University of Ballarat)

*Newcastle Herald* interview, published Friday 8 February

<http://www.theherald.com.au/story/1286541/humour-conference-at-uni-gets-funny/>

Dirk Gibb (University of Newcastle)

ABC Radio National, Drive Program, live interview, Thursday 7 February

Paul Jewell (Flinders University)

ABC Radio National, Drive Program, interview, Friday 8 February

Angelina Hurley (UTS)

ABC 1233, interview, broadcast Thursday 7 February

Jessica Milner Davis (University of Sydney), Robert Phiddian (Flinders University), Mahmud Farjami (Sains Universiti Malaysia), Liisi Laineste (Estonian Folkloric Museum, Tartu), Wladyslaw Chlopicki (Jagellonian University)

SBS Radio News, feature story on Colloquium from a multicultural perspective, recorded Tuesday 12 February, broadcast 6-7.00am 20 February 2013:

<http://www.sbs.com.au/podcasts/Podcasts/radionews/episode/254678/An-international-look-at-humour>

Mahmud Farjami (Sains Universiti Malaysia)

SBS Radio interview: "Satire in Iran a 'risky' practice", by Andrew Bolton, World News Australia Radio, recorded Tuesday 12 February, broadcast 17 February 2013:

<http://www.sbs.com.au/podcasts/Podcasts/radionews/episode/254296/Satire-in-Iran-a-risky-practice>

ABC Radio, Saturday Extra, interview with Geraldine Doogue, recorded Thursday 14 February, broadcast Saturday 23 February 2013:

<http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/saturdayextra/the-life-of-a-political-satirist-in-iran/4521886>

### **AHSN STATEMENT OF CONCERN RE IMPACT ON HUMOUR from Draft Federal Legislation on Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination (Pub. 20 November 2012)**

26 members of AHSN attending the 19<sup>th</sup> Colloquium at University of Newcastle joined Dr Paul Jewell (Flinders University) and Conjoint Prof. Michael Ewans in signing a formal letter addressed to the Australian Attorney General, Mark Dreyfuss MP on this topic. They expressed serious concerns about the provision designed to protect people from being offended or insulted, in particular about potential legal constraints on the humorous giving of offence.

The letter stated, "Australian humour, like the Australian character it expresses, is typically irreverent and frequently rude. Consequently, offence is an essential feature of Australian humour. Sometimes it is the citizen's duty to speak out against cherished beliefs. Sometimes it is the comedian's job to be offensive." It argued that Australians use humour to poke fun at themselves, to cope with hard times, to acknowledge our mateship, and, to question our government through satire and parody, through political cartoons, through ribaldry and everyday banter. It also foresaw practical difficulties in making legal judgments about when

the taking of offence is manufactured or genuine, predictable or idiosyncratic, reasonable or extremist and expressed concern that the legislation could muzzle satirists and comedians. Inter alia, the letters stated: “We deplore offence for offence's sake. We despise the bully and the bigot. We seek the truth, we practise the free exchange of ideas, we value humour as an essential part of that practice and of our shared culture. We believe that even if the eradication of offence was legally possible and deeply desired, the price would be too high to pay. It is much better to use humour to deal with conflict, with change, and with sensitive social issues than the alternatives of bitterness or grim resentment.”

Happily, on 21 February 2013, a Parliamentary Committee examining the Bill recommended removal of section 19(2)(b) of the draft legislation which incorporated behaviour which “offends or insults” another in the definition of discrimination. The Committee concluded, “This provision gave rise to considerable confusion and concern about protection of free speech under the Bill. It is sensible and appropriate that it be removed.” (Source: # Human Rights Legal Resource Centre).

### **SUCCESS FOR AHSN MEMBER’S INDIGENOUS SITCOM PROJECT**

Angelina Hurley, Fullbright Fellow 2012 at New York University, and presenter at the 19<sup>th</sup> AHSN, University of Newcastle, would like AHSN members to know that her doctoral thesis project for University of Technology, Sydney, is taking shape. It is a sit-com series about an Indigenous family and some episodes are accessible on YouTube at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yO651MiDvac&feature=youtu.be>

Or a copy of the full series can be ordered from Flickerfest at: [http://www.flickerfest.com.au/distribution/Catalogue\\_list.aspx?s=3715](http://www.flickerfest.com.au/distribution/Catalogue_list.aspx?s=3715)

Those of us lucky enough to see her preview and presentation at the Colloquium urge you not to miss the making of this epochal media event: the first ever Australian Indigenous sit-com for world audiences. Congratulations and best wishes, Angelina! Come back next year and show us more.

### **25TH ISHS CONFERENCE, COLLEGE OF WILLIAM AND MARY, WILLIAMSBURG VA, 2-6 JULY 2013**

Registration is now open at the Conference website:  
<http://www.cvent.com/events/25th-international-society-for-humor-studies-conference-2013/event-summary-e7aefa94dc5b4a4b9acd4eb8c0aaf548.aspx>

Tuesday 2 July 2013 – Saturday 6 July 2013  
College of William & Mary  
Sadler Center, 200 Stadium Drive  
Williamsburg, Virginia 23187 USA

**Submission of proposals** for papers, panels, workshops, and posters closes **Friday 15 March 2013. Guidelines:**

1. Paper Sessions: Paper sessions will be 90 minutes in length with each speaker allotted twenty to twenty-five minutes for presentation with additional time for questions. Papers should focus on original research dealing with humor. Paper proposals should include: title, name(s) of submitters, affiliation(s) and an abstract that is no more than 300 words in length and in Times New Roman font in 12 point type.
2. Panels: Panels or symposia should be planned for either a 90 or 180 minute format with three to four presentations per 90-minute time period. Along with a completed submission form, proposals should contain the title of the panel and include the names, affiliations, and e-mail addresses of the chair and each contributor. Each proposal should also include an overview of the session along with separate abstracts for each paper presentation. Neither the overview nor the paper abstracts should exceed 350 words in length.
3. Workshops: Workshops should be planned for a single 90 minute instructional/working session with one, two or three presenters/facilitators. Proposals should provide the names, affiliations, and e-mail addresses of all presenters along with a 200 to 300 word abstract of the proposed presentation.
4. Poster Sessions: Poster sessions will run 30 minutes with each individual poster assigned a four-by-five foot space for presentation. All poster proposals should follow the same guidelines as for individual papers (see above). Poster sessions are generally made up of research that is in progress but not quite ready for full presentation.

Possible topics (although not limiting) include: Advertising, Film/Television/Internet, Humor and gender/race/ethnicity, Humor and emotion, Measurement, Literature, Health, Culture, Linguistics, Psychotherapy

Please contact: [ishs@wm.edu](mailto:ishs@wm.edu) or the Conference Chair, Dr Larry Ventis: [wlvnt@wm.edu](mailto:wlvnt@wm.edu)

### **HOLD THE DATES! 2014 ISHS CONFERENCE, UTRECHT, THE NETHERLANDS**

The 2014 ISHS Conference is scheduled for July 7-11, 2014 in Utrecht, Netherlands. More information from the convenor, Dr Sibe Doosje: [S.Doosje@fss.uu.nl](mailto:S.Doosje@fss.uu.nl)

### **RE-POST: 13th INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL AND SYMPOSIUM ON HUMOUR AND LAUGHTER, 22-27 JULY 2013, MAGDEBURG, GERMANY**

Willibald Ruch and Holger Kersten write:

We are pleased to announce that the 13th ISSSHL will take place in Magdeburg, from July 22 to July 27, 2013. The Summer School will be co-organized by the English Department at Otto-von-Guericke-Universitaet, Magdeburg, and the University of Zurich.

Magdeburg is a city with a long and checkered history. As the state capital of Saxony Anhalt, it has seen major regeneration over the past decade and is famed for its magnificent Gothic cathedral as well as the recent addition of a Hundertwasserhaus. Magdeburg has a long tradition of folk humor and is home to four popular political cabarets. Its geographic location makes the city an ideal starting point for visits to such tourist attractions as Berlin and Leipzig.

The team of speakers will include recognized leaders in the field as well as a recent winner of a graduate student award from the ISHS, which endorses the Summer School. As in previous years, a one week program (about 26 hours) will be offered, along with a symposium where participants have an opportunity to present their own research.

More information will be available over the coming months at:  
<http://humoursummerschool.org/13/>  
For inquiries contact: <organiser13@humoursummerschool.org>

We look forward to seeing you (t)here.

Willibald Ruch (University of Zurich) and  
Holger Kersten (Otto-von-Guericke-Universitaet, Magdeburg)

### **SMILE DOES IT AGAIN: SYDNEY LECTURE AND PUBLICATION**

Dr Peter Spitzer and Dr Bernie Warren (University of Windsor, Ontario, Canada) will co-present a lecture on the pioneering NHMRC-funded SMILE study at University of Sydney Medical School, Tuesday 5 March, 10.00-11.00.

Peter advises that the latest paper relating to SMILE is now published by the *British Journal of Medicine* on-line and available at:

<http://bmjopen.bmj.com/content/3/1/e002072.full?sid=6d85a816-0b16-4e43-8e4a-f1ffb7881bbf>

### **SILENT FILM FESTIVAL: APRIL, MAY AND JUNE -- SYDNEY AND NSW**

- Wagga Wagga: Saturday March 30 and Tamworth, Saturday April 6: two sessions at each venue; Charlie Chaplin's Oscar winning *The Circus* at 2pm and Giorgio Moroder's version of *Metropolis* at 4pm. Tickets at Forum 6 cinemas and through their website.
- Newcastle: Events Cinemas, King St, Newcastle. Saturday April 20 Two sessions: 4pm: Charlie Chaplin's Oscar winning *The Circus* with soundtrack. Tickets through Silent Film Festival website. Festival Pass to both sessions available.
- Bowral: St Jude's Church Two sessions with live music. Saturday May 25, 3pm with *Let The Movies* begin, classic shorts 1898-1916, including the work of Meliès, Mabel Normand and Charlie Chaplin. Tickets through Silent Film Festival website.
- Mittagong: Playhouse. Four sessions. Saturday June 15 at 4pm, Charlie Chaplin's Oscar winning *The Circus* with soundtrack. Tickets through Silent Film Festival website.
- State Library, Sydney: Sunday May 26 and Thursday May 30 Charlie Chaplin's Oscar winning *The Circus* with soundtrack. More details soon.

Ronnie and Sharon  
AUSTRALIA'S SILENT FILM FESTIVAL

[www.ozsilentfilmfestival.com.au](http://www.ozsilentfilmfestival.com.au)  
Telephone 0419 267 318