

AHSN - AHSN August May 2013 E-Newsletter

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

[NB: DO NOT REPLY TO THIS EMAIL: this e-list is NOT interactive. Please send replies/comments to Jessica Milner Davis at email address below]

SEMINAR ON SHAKESPEARE AND EARLY MODERN COMEDY, 13 JUNE 2013, UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY: AHSN MEMBERS WELCOME!

A Research Seminar being held under the auspices of the Medieval and Early Modern Centre, University of Sydney, and the ARC-funded Centre for the History of the Emotions, includes ISHS member **Vivienne Westbrook**. Viv is visiting Sydney as part of her stay at University of Western Australia. She will speak on **incongruity in Shakespearean comedy**, in tandem with a visitor from University of Auckland, **Tom Bishop**. All AHSN members are welcome to attend, but please email either me or the convenor, Prof. Liam Semmler, Uni of Sydney, if you wish to come as seating is limited: jessica.davis@sydney.edu.au liam.semmler@sydney.edu.au

Time: 13 June, 12.00-2.00pm

Location: Room N401, John Woolley Building, University of Sydney, Camperdown (main) campus.

Speakers: Prof. Tom Bishop (U. of Auckland) and A/Prof Vivienne Westbrook (National Taiwan University)

Seminar Title: Two Papers on Early Modern Drama

Tom Bishop: 'Is a play a game? - Reflections from the early modern stage.'

Vivienne Westbrook: 'Shakespeare's incongruities in context.'

Vivienne Westbrook is Associate Professor of Renaissance Literature at the National Taiwan University, Taipei, Taiwan. In 2004/5 she was Visiting Fellow at the University of Cambridge, UK, and in 2003/4 Visiting Fellow at the University of Poitiers, France. She has taught also at Manchester, Salford and Manchester Metropolitan Universities (UK), Univ. of Notre Dame, Indiana (USA), and K.U. Leuven and Louvain-La-Neuve (Belgium). Her areas of interest include Renaissance Bibles and Reformation culture, Shakespeare, Renaissance paratexts, historiography and Milton. She is the author of *Long Travail and Great Paynes: A Politics of Reformation Revision* (Dordrecht, 2001), and is working on other books on Richard Taverner, Tudor Bibles, and a collection edited with Peter Nockles, *Reinventing the Reformation in the Age of Invention*. Her articles appear in a number of scholarly publications, most recently "Reflecting Resistant Typologies in Renaissance Women's Writing" in *Identity and Politics: Early Modern Culture*, edited by Smarr, So and Wang (2005).

UPDATE ON AHSN 2014, "ANYTHING GOES", 14-15 FEBRUARY 2014, NATIONAL LIBRARY AND VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON, NZ

Report from the AHSN 2014 Convenor, Dr Mike Lloyd:

Abstracts have begun to arrive via the on-line submission process for the 2014 colloquium. It promises to be an interesting event, with something of a minor concentration of papers on cartooning if early submissions are

anything to go by. Although the **Call does not close until 30 August 2013**, submissions are reviewed as soon as submitted, and don't forget that the first four post-graduate proposals approved will be awarded Scholarships. So don't miss out!

For more information and proposal submission via the AHSN website, visit:

<http://www.sydney.edu.au/humourstudies> > Events, and follow the links to submit your proposal on-line. If you encounter problems, please note:

- Some browsers do not work well with the site: in particular, we strongly recommend not using Microsoft Internet Explorer.

- Problems seem more likely when entering your login details in the box at centre-screen. We recommend using the smaller box at top right (ours not to reason why....).

- If all else fails, email Mike Lloyd: Mike.Lloyd@vuw.ac.nz or

Jessica Davis: jessica.davis@sydney.edu.au

For general inquiries, contact Dr Mike Lloyd: Mike.Lloyd@vuw.ac.nz

Shortly, details about Wellington travel and accommodation and the Colloquium registration form will be added to the AHSN website. Meanwhile, we can announce that registration fees will be \$240 (full) and \$200 (students/unwaged). This is New Zealand dollars, so lucky Australians will get it even cheaper! We're looking forward to seeing as many AHSN members as possible.

Colloquium Convenors:

Mike Lloyd (Sociology), Meredith Marra (Linguistics) and Marco Sonzogni (Italian, Translation Studies) (Victoria University of Wellington)

CALL FOR PAPERS ON CONTEMPORARY ITALIAN POLITICAL HUMOUR

Announcement of a Special Issue/Book: "Send in the clowns! Humour and power in Italian political, social and cultural life", to be edited by Andrea Hajek, Daniele Salerno & Clare Watters

We invite proposals for a volume exploring the **role of political humour and satire in Italian culture, society and politics**. The aim is to analyze politics and society through a 'humorous framework' and to understand how this affects political discourse. What types of humour (irony, parody, satire, caricature, etc.) are used and with what effect on audiences? How is satire, for example, used to engage audiences in political debate? Is humour a political action or symptom of general discontent and catharsis? How should we investigate the relation between humour and its function of 'telling the truth' or 'distracting from the truth'? And how 'serious' should we take political humour to be, even when it is not supposed to entertain?

Possible topics include but are by no means limited to:

- the impact of television and stand-up comedians on political and cultural debates (e.g. *Crozza nel paese delle meraviglie*, Corrado Guzzanti's *Aniene*, Sabina Guzzanti's *Vilipendio*)
- political humour in current affairs and other TV programmes (e.g. Crozza at Ballarò, Littizzetto at *Che tempo che fa*, Serena Dandini's *The show must go off* and *Parla con me*, Vauro on *Servizio Pubblico and Annozero*)
- humorous strategies of social criticism and symbolical justice (e.g. *Striscia la notizia*, *Le Iene*)
- humour and 'passional' configurations (catharsis, indignation)
- gendering/gendered humour and sexual discrimination in humour
- humour as form of political persuasion and identification
- humour in social media (e.g. Facebook sharing of satirical cartoons, parodies on Youtube)
- film comedy and comedians in film (Moretti's *Il caimano*, the satiric documentaries of Sabina Guzzanti)

- political cartoons (vignette, Vauro, Altan, Giannini), satirical magazines (e.g. *Cuore*, *Il Vernacoliere*, *Il Misfatto* satirical supplement to *Il Fatto quotidiano* etc.) and satirical headlines
- satire in music (e.g. *Elio e le storie tese*)

Please submit an abstract (250-300 words) and a short biography as word/PDF documents to Andrea Hajek (andrea Hajek@gmail.com), Daniele Salerno (daniele.salerno@gmail.com) and Clare Watters (clarewatters@gmail.com).

The deadline for proposal submissions is 20 May 2013. All submissions must be original and previously unpublished.

About the editors:

Andrea Hajek obtained her doctorate degree at the University of Warwick (UK). Her dissertation - on the negotiation of memories of student protests in Italy – is being published by Palgrave Macmillan. She is the Senior Editorial Assistant for the *Memory Studies* journal as well as a founding member of the Oral History Network. Currently she is an Associate Fellow at the Warwick Institute of Advanced Study. She has edited a special issue on oral history and 1968, and is co-editing another special issue on revisionism in Italian fiction. She has published in *Behavioral Sciences of Terrorism and Political Aggression*, *Modern Italy*, *Carte Italiane* and *Italian Studies*. She also writes on a number of academic blogs. [<http://warwick.ac.uk/andrea Hajek>]

Daniele Salerno received his doctorate in Semiotics from the University of Bologna in 2009, with a dissertation on the cultural and discursive construction of the terrorist threat in the War on Terror, which has been published recently (*Terrorismo, Sicurezza, Post-conflitto: Studi semiotici sulla guerra al terrore*). Currently, he is a post-doctoral research fellow at the University of Bologna, a scientific secretary of the Centre for the Interdisciplinary Study of Cultural Memory and Trauma (TRAME) and an editorial board member for *Versus and Studi Culturali*. [<http://unibo.academia.edu/danielesalerno>]

Clare Watters (University of Birmingham, UK) is completing a PhD entitled 'Making Space for Satire: Political Comedians 2001-2011'. Her work on contemporary satire has been published in *Italian Studies*, *Comedy Studies* and the *New York Times online*. She is currently co-editing a book with Dr Alex Standen: *Gendering Commitment: Re-thinking Social and Ethical Engagement in Modern Italian Culture*.

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

The **2014 International Society for Humor Studies Conference** is scheduled for **7-11 July 2014 in Utrecht, the Netherlands**. For more information, email the 2014 Convenor, Dr Sibe Doosje: S.Doosje@fss.uu.nl

Best wishes from Jessica

Dr Jessica Milner Davis
AHSN Co-ordinator
jessica.davis@sydney.edu.au