

# The Humour Studies Digest

Australasian Humour Studies Network ([AHSN](#))

July 2014



## **AHSN Conference 2015: Call for Papers**

*2015 Conference Organising Team reports*

It's finally here!

The Call for Papers is now officially open for the 21st AHSN Conference. Hosted by the Flinders Institute for Research in the Humanities (FIRtH), the conference revolves around the theme "Humour: Politics, Pragmatics, Ethics."

Proposals are welcome for papers from the broad range of humour studies, particularly those that bear on the social, cultural, political and linguistic functions of humour.

Each of the terms in the theme has both a narrow and a broad application, and contributors are welcome to take any of those senses. The politics of laughter includes work specifically on political satire, but also on wider ideological uses of humour. Pragmatics might elicit papers from applied linguistics or from psychological, creative or workplace research involving the practicalities of humour. And ethics can address a range of questions about how, whether and when we should laugh, in a range of contexts such as the humour of minority groups, gendered or racially-inflected humour.

Humour Studies ranges across many disciplines and enables interdisciplinary dialogues, and we hope that the papers offered for this conference will reflect that rich variety. Post-graduate students researching humour-related topics are specially invited to present on their work-in-progress, and there will be some scholarships to assist postgraduate attendance.

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### ***Hold the Dates!***

AHSN Conference 2015

"Humour: Politics, Pragmatics,  
Ethics."

**4 -6 February 2015**

State Library of South Australia

**Call for Papers Closes: 10  
September 2014**

Keynotes for the conference will include Cliff Goddard, Professor of Linguistics at Griffith University, and Peter Marks, Associate Professor of English at the University of Sydney.

### **TO SUBMIT YOUR PROPOSAL:**

1. Please prepare an Abstract in a word.doc or .docx format, using **Times New Roman 11 pt font**. Abstracts must be limited to **500 words**, including references (if required). Do **NOT** use foot- or end-notes. Please retain a dated copy for your own records.
2. Visit the AHSN website at: <http://www.sydney.edu.au/humourstudies>
3. Click on "Events" and follow the in-text link to upload your proposal doc on-line, following the prompts. Please make sure you also enter the required personal data.

#### *Notes:*

- AHSN Review Procedures are outlined on the website.
- As in previous years, a small number of Post-Graduate Scholarships will be awarded to the first successful proposals from research students.

### **THE CALL CLOSES ON 10 SEPTEMBER 2014**

More information about the Conference, including accommodation and travel options, can be found using either the AHSN or the FIRtH websites:

<http://www.sydney.edu.au/humourstudies>

[http://www.flinders.edu.au/ehl/firth/firth-research-theme/21st-ahsn-conference/21st-ahsn-conference\\_home.cfm](http://www.flinders.edu.au/ehl/firth/firth-research-theme/21st-ahsn-conference/21st-ahsn-conference_home.cfm)

For enquiries, please contact the appropriate member of the organising team, while cc'ing Ms Joy Tennant, FIRtH administrative assistant, at: [joy.tennant@flinders.edu.au](mailto:joy.tennant@flinders.edu.au)

- Dr Christine Nicholls (Australian Studies), for general conference enquiries: [christine.nicholls@flinders.edu.au](mailto:christine.nicholls@flinders.edu.au)
- Associate Professor Robert Phiddian (English), for paper proposals and academic review process: [robert.phiddian@flinders.edu.au](mailto:robert.phiddian@flinders.edu.au)
- Dr Antonella Strambi (Italian), for FIRtH website: [antonella.strambi@flinders.edu.au](mailto:antonella.strambi@flinders.edu.au)

## Call for Contributions: New Ways in Teaching With Humor

Editor John Rucynski, Jr. seeks contributors for a volume in TESOL's New Ways Series entitled *New Ways in Teaching With Humor*. The content will include teaching ideas and activities for using or teaching about humor in English in the following categories:

- English word play (e.g., puns and riddles)
- Humor in English-speaking pop culture (e.g., scenes from humorous movies, sit-coms, animation)
- Humor in mass media (e.g., humorous headlines, editorial cartoons)
- Humor and digital literacy (e.g., humor in social networking, such as Facebook memes)
- Humor and social issues (e.g., satire, political cartoons)
- Humorous techniques for teaching language points (e.g., grammar rules, pronunciation, phonology)

In all of the above areas, we particularly welcome research-informed perspectives which manage to use humor as a tool for providing insights into language and/or culture.

**Deadline: 1 December 2014.**

If you would like to contribute, please check out [the website](#) or contact [John](#).



### *Do you know a promising grad student?*

*The Digest* is looking to showcase graduate students at the early stages of their projects. If you've got a student in mind, please encourage them to send us a 250 words summary of their project and we will feature them in the coming months.

Postgrads, you are of course welcome to contact us of your own volition.

Send submissions to your Eds (Rebecca at [rebecca.higgie@curtin.edu.au](mailto:rebecca.higgie@curtin.edu.au) or Jessica at [jessica.davis@sydney.edu.au](mailto:jessica.davis@sydney.edu.au) ) and let us celebrate and encourage upcoming talent in humour

## A LinkedIn Group: Corporate Comedy

Rodney Marks reports

This January, I started a LinkedIn group, which is now an open group, called Corporate Comedy. It is about comedy in the workplace. I'd be delighted if other members of the humour community would join and contribute!

Here are the details. Once you've joined LinkedIn ...

*Connect with me as an individual:* [www.linkedin.com/in/comic](http://www.linkedin.com/in/comic)

*Join the Corporate Comedy group:* <http://www.linkedin.com/groups/corporate-comedy-6616200>

It's free. Also, it's fun (I reckon), it's educational (maybe), it's inspirational (if you're that way inclined), it's motivational (hmm).

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### *New ASHN Member Publications*

Higgie, Rebecca. "Arsehole of British comedy? Rik Mayall was a funny B'stard." *The Conversation*. 10 June 2014. <http://theconversation.com/arsehole-of-british-comedy-rik-mayall-was-a-funny-bstard-27809>

Joseph, Barbara. "Funny how? Where women and stand-up meet for laughs." *The Conversation*. 2 April 2014. <http://theconversation.com/funny-how-where-women-and-stand-up-meet-for-laughs-25013>

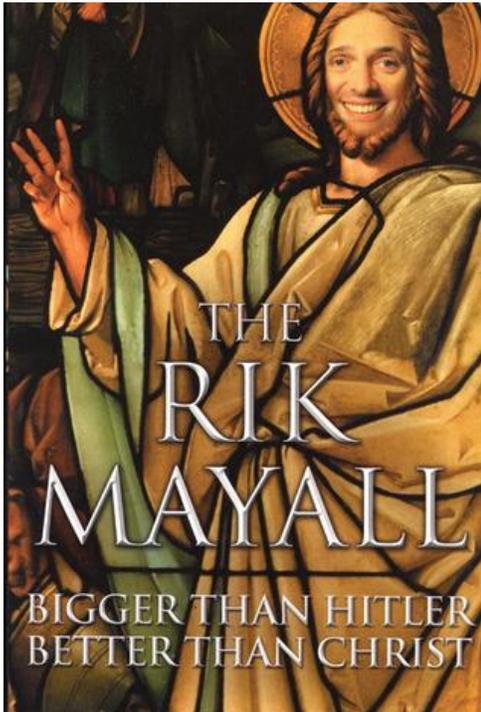
Lloyd, Mike. "Embodied gestures as a resource in a photo caption competition." *Australasian Journal of Popular Culture*. Volume 3, Number 2. 191–205. doi: 10.1386/ajpc.3.2.191\_1

Lloyd, M & P. Jewell. "'Fun in Games': employing insights from Goffman's Sociology to an understanding of Humour." *Israeli Journal for Humor Research*, June 2014, Issue 5.

Phiddian, Robert. "The Australian helped political cartoonists sharpen their edge." *The Conversation*. 9 July 2014. <https://theconversation.com/the-australian-helped-political-cartoonists-sharpen-their-edge-28845>

## **A Raucous Recommendation!**

Every day, AHSN scholars study and enjoy wonderful forms of humour. Two graduate students, Alison O'Connor and Rebecca Higgie, got to know each other from opposite sides of the country by sharing beloved objects of study and humour. Together, they decided that this should be extended to all AHSN members!



This month, we commemorate the death of iconic British comedian Rik Mayall.

Many AHSN members will be familiar with Mayall's work on *The Young Ones*, *Blackadder*, *Bottom* and *The New Statesman*. So this month, we recommend the comedian's book:

### ***Bigger than Hitler, Better than Christ***

This less than reliable autobiography is full of the ridiculous, the grotesque and the downright absurd, as can be expected of anything penned by Mayall. It was published by Harper Collins in 2006.

Got something to share in the next *Digest*? Send it to Rebecca at [rebecca.higgie@curtin.edu.au](mailto:rebecca.higgie@curtin.edu.au)

### ***The Humour Studies Digest***

### ***The Australasian Humour Studies Network (AHSN)***

***'We put the "U" back into "HUMOUR"!'***

Send newsletter submissions to our Co-Editors:

Rebecca at [rebecca.higgie@curtin.edu.au](mailto:rebecca.higgie@curtin.edu.au) or Jessica at [Jessica.davis@sydney.edu.au](mailto:Jessica.davis@sydney.edu.au)

To subscribe or unsubscribe, visit the AHSN website (<http://www.sydney.edu.au/humourstudies>), click on "Subscribe to e-Newsletter" and follow the prompts to enter or remove an email address.

When contacting us, please edit your Subject line so it is more specific than "Re: Contents of The Humour Studies Digest..."