

Subject: AHSN - October 2014 DIGEST UPDATES ON 2014-5 EVENTS

From: Jessica Milner Davis <jessmd@bigpond.net.au>

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

"The Humour Studies Digest" is the e-Newsletter for members of the Australasian Humour Studies Network (AHSN), University of Sydney

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

[NB This e-list is NOT interactive, replies/comments should be sent to Jessica Milner Davis -- email address below]

UPDATE ON AHSN2015 CONFERENCE, FLINDERS INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH IN THE HUMANITIES (FIRtH), ADELAIDE, 4-6 FEBRUARY 2015

FROM THE ORGANISERS: 21st AHSN ANNUAL CONFERENCE, ADELAIDE, ON "HUMOUR: POLITICS, PRAGMATICS, ETHICS"

Once again, the Organizing Committee extends a very warm welcome to those of you planning to come to Adelaide to attend this conference.

We have received a large number of excellent proposals for review.

Most (though not quite all) notifications and acceptances have now been sent out. The conference is going to be very well attended and the program is shaping up to be a huge success.

REGISTRATION

Processing of registrations for the conference will begin next week, via the downloadable form available at the Conference website. Visit the AHSN website (at head of email), click on Events side-bar, then Information, and follow the links. If you experience any difficulties with registration, please contact Ms Joy Tennant, the Flinders University-based AHSN Conference administrator, on: Joy.Tennant@flinders.edu.au. Joy works three days of the week so there may be a short delay in response to your email. All presenters and attendees must register in advance of attending.

OTHER CONFERENCE NEWS

NEW: KEYNOTE SPEAKER, DISTINGUISHED AUSTRALIAN POLITICAL CARTOONIST, BRUCE PETTY

At this conference delegates will be exploring themes related to the social, cultural, political and linguistic functions of humour. No-one is better placed to draw all this together than Bruce Petty. Cartoonist, satirist, illustrator, printmaker, sculptor, screen artist, designer, and Grand Old Man of Australian political cartooning, many judge Petty to be Australia's greatest exponent of this complex, hybrid artform. Bruce has agreed to deliver a major keynote address at our conference on Thursday 5th February (mid conference).

PROF. CLIFF GODDARD's KEYNOTE

Well-known linguist Cliff Goddard of Griffith University will deliver a keynote address entitled, '“Sarcastic”, “deadpan”, “irreverent”': A semantic guide to Australian ways of laughing.' Prof. Goddard will grapple with the hoary old chestnut of what actually constitutes

'Aussie humour', deploying systematic semantic analysis to shed new light on this hotly-debated topic.

**ACCOMMODATION OPTIONS, TRAVEL INFORMATION NOW AVAILABLE
ON THE CONFERENCE WEBSITE**

Visit the AHSN website (at head of email) and click on sidebar for "Events", then "Information", to follow the links.

CONFERENCE DINNER

Our usual optional conference dinner will be held on the last day of the conference. This year, delegates may sign up and pay in advance.

Date and time: Wednesday, 4 February 2015 at 7:30pm

Place: Wah Hing Chinese Restaurant, 85 Gouger St, Adelaide SA 5000

Cost: \$50 per head includes a free glass of champagne on entry followed by 2 entrees and a selection of mains per table.

Note: Paying for the conference dinner in tandem with registration is strongly recommended to secure a place, since seating at the dinner is strictly limited to 60 persons.

Flinders University Convenors:

Dr Christine Nicholls (Australian Studies)

Associate Professor Robert Phiddian (English)

Dr Colette Mrowa-Hopkins (French)

Dr Antonella Strambi (Italian)

NEW: POST-CONFERENCE POSTGRADUATE STUDENT SEMINAR

Masterclass for Research Students

In conjunction with, and immediately following the conference, a free, interactive event for Australasian postgraduate students researching humour and laughter has been organized. The program's title is "Investigating Humour and Laughter: Trans-disciplinary approaches". Please draw the attached flyer to the attention of students who may be interested in attending.

The day-long seminar will be conducted by Dr Jessica Milner Davis, AHSN Co-ordinator, and Dr Bruce Findlay, AHSN Review Panel Chair.

When: Saturday, 7 February from 10.00am – 5.00pm

Where: International Room 5.34, Education Bldg, Flinders University
(transport from city provided)

For enquiries and bookings (closing pre-Christmas, 23 December),

email: Karen.Austin@flinders.edu.au

and Joy.Tennant@flinders.edu.au

UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY GUEST LECTURE ON "HUMOUR IN BYZANTINE CULTURE", 5 DECEMBER 2014, BY DR PRZEMYSŁAW MARCINIAK

The Australasian Humour Studies Network and the Dept of Greek and Byzantine Studies, University of Sydney, present a Guest Lecture by

visiting scholar, **Dr (Habil.) Przemysław Marciniak, University of Silesia, Poland**

Title: "Bloodthirsty doctors, underground mice and annoying scholars: Humour in the 12th century Byzantine satires"

Date and Time: Friday 5 December 2014: 11.00 am-12.00 (light refreshments afterwards)

Location: The Refectory Room (H113), Main Quad (S-W corner, basement level), University of Sydney

About the Lecture: To say that the Byzantines mostly mourned and wept but did not laugh is today a cliché. Despite it, there is a growing number of studies on Byzantine humour found in chronicles, letters and visual sources. Yet the most obvious genre – satire – remains almost untouched. To some extent perhaps this is caused by a mistaken view of Byzantine satires as simple imitations of ancient, mostly Lucianic, works. The aim of this paper is to focus on the satires written in 12th century Byzantium – the time of 'Byzantium's greatest literary flourishing'. The chosen group of texts consists of the works authored by Theodore Prodromos, one of the most prolific Byzantine literati; the anonymous *Timarion*; and two works modelled on Lucian's *Dialogues of the Dead*. It is intended to show how humour in those texts was constructed and how ancient models and motifs were creatively reused to express Byzantine *Realien*. The paper will also discuss to what extent humorous elements in these satires may reflect the 'Byzantine sense of humour' in the 12th century.

About the Lecturer: Przemysław Marciniak is Professor of Byzantine

Literature at the University of Silesia in Poland and the Head of the Dept of Classical Philology. He has taught and worked in various institutions in Germany, France, Sweden, UK and the USA. He has authored books and papers on Byzantine theatre, performance and humour and on the reception of Byzantine culture, including the entry on 'Byzantine Humour' in the *Sage Encyclopedia of Humor Studies* (2014). His latest book is the Polish translation of the anonymous Byzantine satire *Timarion*.

NOTE: This lecture forms part of a Greek and Byzantine Studies Conference, convened by Prof. Vrasidas Karalis, University of Sydney. Members of the AHSN and their guests are welcome to attend this conference session free, courtesy of Prof. Karalis. For catering purposes, however, please let Jessica Milner Davis know: jessica.davis@sydney.edu.au

For maps and information on casual parking on campus, see:

http://sydney.edu.au/visitors_community/getting_here/parking.shtml

Best wishes and our full Digest will return for a final issue in November,

Dr Jessica Milner Davis

AHSN Co-ordinator

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Attachments:

HumourPublicityPoster.pptx 158 KB