

The Humour Studies Digest

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

March 2016



Report on the 22nd AHSN Conference

Women's College, University of Sydney, 6-8 February 2016

Dr Peter Kirkpatrick

The AHSN had another very successful conference this year. The organising committee comprised Jessica Milner Davis, Will Visconti and myself as chair. The three of us working as a team, along with the able assistance of Gineke de Haan, events manager at Women's College, meant that things came together well. The facilities at the College were excellent and, barring an early audio-visual glitch in the resplendent Main Common Room, all ran smoothly. The theme may have been 'Unfunny: The Limits of Humour', but everyone seems to have a good time, and several newcomers praised the warm collegiality of the Network.

The conference unfolded over two and a half days, and was launched by Mark Humphries from ABC TV's *The Roast*, who described his own experience of jokes that inadvertently crossed certain lines. There were three keynote speakers: Michael Ewans from the University of Newcastle gave a wide-ranging paper looking 'At the Limits of Humour'; Michael Haugh from Griffith University spoke on "Jocular Mockery: Jocular Abuse and the Taking of Offence"; and Moira Marsh from Indiana University Bloomington, author of the recently published *Practically Joking* (Utah State UP), drew upon a 1910 hoax involving the Royal Navy to

THIS EDITION

AHSN 2016 - Report	1
The 23rd AHSN Conference	3
ISHS Dublin Conference	4
International Summer School and Symposium	5
Political Satire - Brunel University London	5
Humour. <i>Les mots et les choses</i>	6
Members' new publications March 2016	7



discuss 'Unlaughter, the Unfunny and the *Dreadnought*'.

All up there were thirty-eight papers and fifty-three attendees. Overseas visitors came from Japan, Singapore, New Zealand and the USA. A brilliant grace note was provided by David Megaritty and Bridget Boyle from QUT, whose paper 'Onstage Couplings' included their performance as the parody folk duo 'Warmwaters'. Another program highlight was the plenary panel on 'On Satire & Offence in Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia and the People's Republic of China' chaired by Jessica Milner Davis. A special session 'On Cartoons and Cartoonists' in Fisher Library coincided with the launch by Alan Moir, chief political cartoonist of the *Sydney Morning Herald*, of a special exhibition of Australian comic art. 'Laugh Lines and Other Distractions' was curated by Lindsay Foyle and Peter Kirkpatrick, with Julie Price and Marissa Cassin from Rare Books and Special Collections, and is open on level 2 of Fisher until August 31.

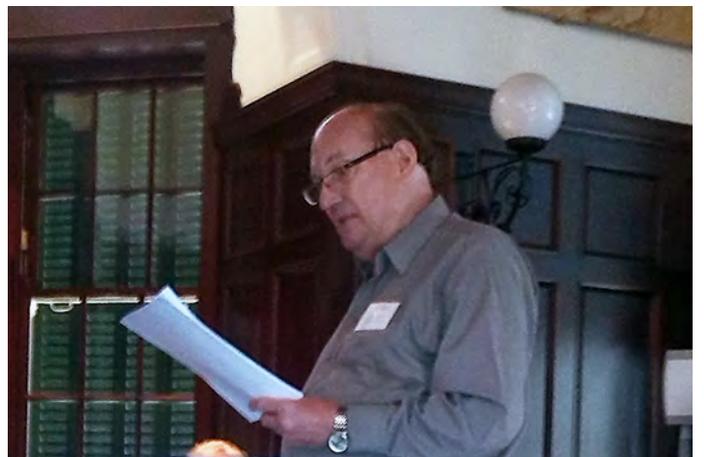
Ten postgraduate students from seven universities presented their research. Five of these were lucky recipients of the Network's postgraduate scholarship: Shuming Bai (Nanyang Technological University, Singapore), Cale Bain (University of Technology Sydney), Claire Duffy (Deakin University), Ben Eldridge (University of Sydney) and Josh Wheatley (University of Sydney). Nassif Muhammad Ali, a postgrad from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, had been awarded a



Angus McLachlan introducing Michael Haugh



Let's do lunch!



Michael Ewans on the Limits of Humour



Lexi and Luke Warmwaters - 'Audience Precipitation'

scholarship and was hoping to present a paper, but was unable to receive travel funding.

The conference and exhibition attracted media interest from ABC Adelaide radio, ABC News 24, and Channel 9 News.

For contributions of money, goods in kind, and physical help, the organisers would like to thank: Liam Semler, Chair of the Department of English; Eileen Corrigan and Georgia Holmes of the School of Letters, Art & Media; Phil Glen and Shelagh Stanton of the SLAM Digital Media Unit; and Jill Dimond and Ben Eldridge.



Cale Bain on How Comedy and Traditional News Content Compare



Presentation in the Library space



Maren Rawlings -
Disparagement of Self – Who
Would Do That!



Moira Marsh on Unlaughter,
the Unfunny, and the
Dreadnought



Anja Pabel and Kirk Gibb celebrating

The 23rd AHSN Conference

The 23rd AHSN Conference will be hosted in early February 2017 by Dr Angus McLachlan (School of Health Sciences & Psychology, Federation University Australia) in Ballarat, Victoria (precise dates TBA).

Further information, including timing and theme, travel and accommodation details, as well as the Call for Papers, will be announced shortly.

For early enquiries, please email Angus at: a.mclachlan@federation.edu.au



Dr Angus McLachlan

International Society for Humor Studies (ISHS) Dublin Conference, 27 June-2 July 2016

Deadline for paper proposals: March 15, 2016

The 2016 ISHS conference invites research papers, symposia, and workshops under the general theme of Humor as Embodied Practice (any queries on the suitability of proposals can be directed to the conference organizers via the contact form on the conference website at: <http://www.irishcomedy.ie>). The deadline for submissions will be March 15, 2016, and abstracts will not be accepted prior to formal online registration (full refund is available if desired up to April 15, 2016, with partial refund 50% from April 16 to May 31, 2016 – the percentages of fees that go to College processing cannot be refunded -- and no refunds after June 1, 2016).

This, the 28th Conference of the International Society for Humor Studies will be held from June 27 to July 1, 2016, at Trinity College Dublin, in the heart of Ireland's capital city. All conference business will take place in or near Trinity's walled campus, with a conference home in the Long Room Hub, and major events hosted by the School of Drama, Film and Music's Samuel Beckett Theatre.

Note of Advice: If you're planning to attend, please note that this year, 2016, marks an important date in the Republic of Ireland's history, and so there will be many commemorative events taking place in Dublin at the time of the conference. It is therefore advisable to make travel plans and book accommodations sooner rather than later.

Interdisciplinary Huddles

A Note from the Conference Chair, Dr Eric Weitz, Dept of Drama, Trinity College Dublin

Interdisciplinary Huddles amount to an experiment arising from my experience in previous conferences, during which I often have found myself in a panel or lecture approaching humor studies from well outside my home discipline. I have realized that these occasions invariably lead to new insights of immense value – and so I thought we might try not only to make these 'mismatches' happen on purpose, but in such contexts that active discussion amongst disciplines becomes the point rather than a passing benefit.

Interdisciplinary Huddles will take place on Monday afternoon, 27 June, prior to the formal Welcome and Presidential Address and in the Trinity space occupied by the research-oriented Innovation Academy.

Interested participants will be assigned to four- or five-person 'working groups', each led by a specially briefed convenor. We therefore ask interested delegates to register here with Name and Primary Discipline (there is no charge for the session), so that we can ensure a diverse mix for each group. Convenors will be equipped with discussion prompts, while at the same time prepared to pursue questions posed to the rest of the group by individual delegates and to let conversations proceed as they may. The small-group, informal nature of the discussion should allow for an air of serious play with and amongst ideas from various orientations. (We may even try an element of 'speed huddling' so as to increase the mix of thought and interest as much as possible.) To sign up complete the form on the conference website at: <http://www.irishcomedy.ie/>

16th International Summer School and Symposium on Humour and Laughter

The 16th International Summer School and Symposium on Humour and Laughter will take place in Braşov, Romania, from July 4th-9th, 2016, organised by Dr Stanca Măda and Dr Răzvan Săftoiu.

Information and applications for places available at:

<http://www.humoursummerschool.org/16/index.shtml>

For more information see the general Summer School website under the direction of Prof. Willibald Ruch, Dept of Psychology, University of Zurich, at:

<http://www.humoursummerschool.org/index.html>

Funny, Honest and 'Just Like Us': The Political Co-Option of Satire

Wednesday 16th March 2016

4.00-6.00pm (doors open at 4.00pm, presentation starts at 4:15pm,
drinks reception from 5.00pm)

Gaskell Building, Room 239

Brunel University London

London, Uxbridge, UB8 3PH, UK



The CCSR has been hosting Dr Rebecca Higgle as an Endeavour Postdoctoral Fellow, funded by the Australian Government. As her fellowship draws to a close, Rebecca will be presenting the results of her research. Her work addresses questions such as: What function does satire serve in modern democracy? How do voters respond to politicians who have a sense of humour? What happens to satire when it is celebrated or used by the very people it satirises? How does satirical hijacking in social media impact the public image of political parties?

Rebecca will summarise the findings from her survey on people's attitudes towards politicians who go on satire and comedy programmes, which has received over 450 participants. She will discuss her theory of the political co-option of satire and briefly share other related research findings, including work on the satirical hijacking of political parties on Twitter.

Please email comedy.studies@brunel.ac.uk to reserve your place.

Don't forget you can also follow us on twitter @Comedy_Studies.

Look forward to seeing you on 16th March!

Best wishes,

Sharon

Dr Sharon Lockyer

Director, Centre for Comedy Studies Research (CCSR)

Brunel University London

Email: Sharon.Lockyer@brunel.ac.uk

Twitter: @Comedy_Studies

**Humour. Les mots et les choses
(Humour: The order of things).
HUMORESQUES, n°41 (printemps 2015).
Textes réunis par Will Noonan**



Sommaire/Contents :

Will Noonan -- *Humour : les mots et les choses (Humour: The order of things).*

Nelly Feuerhahn -- *Les mots et les choses dans l'humour de Soulas (The order of things in the humour of Soulos)*

Rolf Lohse -- *Prolégomènes d'une théorie du comique (Prolegomena to a theory of the comic)*

María Dolores Vivero García et Patrick Charaudeau -- *Éléments de théorie pour l'analyse discursive de l'humour (Theoretical elements for a discursive analysis of humour)*

Marie Panter -- *Le rire du romancier : « humour », « ironie », « parodie » dans les théories postromantiques du roman (Novelists' laughter: Humour, irony and parody in postromantic theories of the novel)*

Cécile Sorin -- *Définitions et usages de la « parodie » et du « pastiche » : essai de typologie fonctionnelle (Definition and usage of parody and pastiche: An essay in functional typology)*

Marie-Odile Ogier-Fares -- *Écriture de l'ironie et modernité : l'éthos de l'ironiste comparé à celui du rieur (Writing irony and modernity: Comparing the eiron's ethos to that of the laugher)*

Bérengère Moricheau-Airaud -- *Pourquoi le (sou)rire proustien ne peut avoir une définition (Why it is impossible to define Proustian smiling and laughter)*

Frédéric-Charles Baitinger -- *Je ris, donc je pense : Rire et souveraineté dans la pensée de Georges Bataille (I laugh, therefore I think: Laughter and dominance in George Bataille's philosophy)*

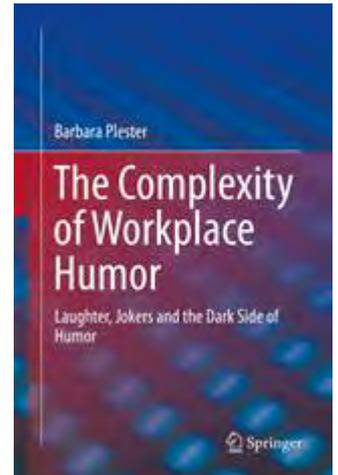
Isolde Lecostey -- *L'indéfinition au service du pouvoir de l'humoriste : l'humour noir, de Breton à Topor (The humorist's power of imprecision: Black humour from Breton to Topor)*

Other Members' new publications March 2016

Barbara Plester.

The Complexity of Workplace Humour. Laughter, Jokers and the Dark Side of Humour. Dordrecht: Springer, 2016. eBook 83,29 € ISBN 978-3-319-24669-7; Hardcover 99,99 €

This book discusses boundaries for organizational humour as well as the jokers and jesters that enliven modern workplaces. It has long been accepted that humour and tragedy can occupy the same space and that is eloquently demonstrated in this book. Using ethnographic research techniques, a selection of stories, ruminations, cartoons, and narratives of events is combined with theoretical conceptions of humour and fun to create a comprehensive analysis of the good, the bad, and the downright ugly in organizational humour.



Preview at: http://www.springer.com/gp/book/9783319246673?wt_mc=Alerts.NBA.SpringerAuthors-Dec-1

Bio-note

Dr Plester is a Senior Lecturer at the University of Auckland Business School, Department of Management & International Business, in Auckland, New Zealand. Email: b.plester@auckland.ac.nz

Table of contents:

The Set-Up	Pages 1-16
Theorising Humour	Pages 17-37
Execution of a Joke: Types and Functions of Humour	Pages 39-66
The Organization Joker: A Modern Court Jester	Pages 67-85
Dynamic Humour Boundaries	Pages 87-105
The Punch Line: Transgression and the Dark Side	Pages 107-128
Monsters in the Shadows? Humour and the Uncanny	Pages 129-148
Getting the Joke: Applause and Laughter	Pages 149-164

The Humour Studies Digest

The Australasian Humour Studies Network (AHSN)

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

Send newsletter submissions to our Co-Editors:

Michael at michael.meany@newcastle.edu.au or Jessica at 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..."