

The Humour Studies Digest

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

August 2017



Extended Call for Papers

The 24th Conference of the Australasian Humour Studies Network (AHSN)

“Humour: How does it Travel?”

hosted by the

Centre for Tourism and Regional Opportunities (CTRO)

Central Queensland University, Cairns Campus

2-4 February 2018

Although a good number of proposals have been received and many already accepted with others under review, we would like to extend the Call until Thursday 31 August 2017, to allow several people who have been occupied with conferences over the winter break time to complete their offerings.

The Extended Call will close on Thursday, 31 August 2017 at 5.00pm.

Update from the Conference Convener:

Hello from beautiful Cairns. I am looking forward to welcoming AHSN delegates to the 24th annual AHSN conference, on the theme of “Humour: How Does it Travel?”. The conference is proudly hosted by the Centre for Tourism and Regional Opportunities (CTRO) at Central Queensland University’s (CQU) Cairns Campus and will run from mid-afternoon of Friday 2 February to evening of Sunday 4 February 2018.

Central Queensland University’s Cairns Campus is only a short distance from a wide range of accommodation facilities, cafes, restaurants, bars, boutique shopping, and also the famous Cairns Esplanade and Pier. The street address of CQU’s Cairns campus is: Level 3 CQU Cairns Campus, Cnr Abbott and Shields Streets, Cairns QLD 4870.

Preparations for the conference are well under way, including arrangements confirming the attendance of our two highly-regarded keynote speakers who are presenting on thought-provoking topics:

Prof. Laura Little: “Censorship Humour Around the World”

Laura E. Little is the Charles Klein Professor of Law and Government at Temple University’s Beasley School of Law in Philadelphia. She has published extensively on US federal court jurisdiction, conflict of laws, and constitutional law. One of her many articles on humour and the law, *Regulating Funny: Humor and the Law* (2009), received a national award and her book on the same subject, *Humor Rules*, is currently in press (OUP).

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The inimitable Dr. Anja Pabel

Prof. Philip Pearce: "Opportunism and embellishment in travel storytelling."

Philip L. Pearce is Foundation Professor of Tourism at James Cook University, Australia. His research focuses on tourist behaviour, notably tourist motivation and experience, tourism and communities, and tourism education and research. His books on tourist behaviour (1982, 1988, 2005, and 2011) as well as his studies of positive psychology including humour (2011, 2014, and 2015) are recognized and used globally.

Scholarship Winners!

It is also our pleasure to announce the names of the postgraduate students who were successful in securing the five available fee waiver scholarships annually offered by AHSN:

Ben Eldridge – Department of English, University of Sydney

Cao Ying – School of Humanities and Communication Arts, University of Western Sydney

Dita Svelte – School of Social Sciences, University of New South Wales

Reza Arab – School of Languages and Linguistics, Griffith University

Yousef Barahmeh – School of Social, Historical and Literary Studies, University of Portsmouth, UK

Congratulations to all recipients!

Enquiries and tourism advice

Some of you have already asked me accommodation and travel related questions about your stay in Cairns. Apart from a PhD in tourism, I also used to work as a travel consultant here in Cairns so am well-placed to respond! There is a wealth of information to share on the many tours and activities that are possible in North Queensland, so please continue to send me your questions. ☺

There is more information on the Events pages of the AHSN website at:

<http://sydney.edu.au/humourstudies/events/index.shtml>

You can also click on these links for more practical information about visiting Cairns:

Tourism Tropical North Queensland: <http://www.cairnsgreatbarrierreef.org.au/>

Cairns Regional Council: <http://www.cairns.qld.gov.au/region/tourist-information>

Best regards and see you all next year!

Anja

Anja Pabel, PhD

Lecturer in Tourism | School of Business and Law

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Proposal Submission

Papers are invited from all disciplines on all topics related to the study of humour, but the conveners of this conference are particularly interested in those that address the concept and practice of how humour travels, whether between times or places, genres or forms, from creator to recipient, from one hearer to another, as well as humour about travel (e.g. tourism, exotic locations etc), and the questions of whether such travelling is successful, and why – or why not.

Humour Studies is an expansive multi-disciplinary field, and we welcome approaches that encourage dialogue across disciplines as well as within them. Postgraduate students researching humour-related topics are especially invited to present their research-in-progress, and some postgraduate scholarships or fee waivers will be available to assist the attendance of those whose proposals first successfully complete review.

Guidelines for preparing proposals for papers (30 mins) and practical workshops (60 minutes), as well as the AHSN review process, are set out on the AHSN website at:

<http://sydney.edu.au/humourstudies/events/index.shtml>

To submit your proposal, and for information on attending the conference and all enquiries, visit the Events page of the AHSN website at: <http://sydney.edu.au/humourstudies/events/index.shtml>

Follow the link on that page to the dedicated submission and review website for registering your proposal for the conference.

Organizing Committee

Dr Anja Pabel, CQUniversity Australia
Dr Jessica Milner Davis, University of Sydney
Dr Bruce Findlay, Swinburne University of Technology

AHSN Members' News and Updates – Angelina Hurley

News from AHSN member, Angelina Hurley, PhD candidate at UTS in Creative Writing:

“YAY! Can't believe I made it to the final round. Little bit excited.”

Screen Australia Media centre at:

<https://www.screenaustralia.gov.au/sa/media-centre/news/2017/08-04-smart-for-a-girl-roar>

04 08 2017 - Media release

Smart for a Girl: ROAR kick-starts careers of next generation female screenwriters

Fifteen entry-level female television screenwriters from across Australia have been given the opportunity to kick-start their careers working with renowned producer Imogen Banks (Offspring) and screenwriter Alice Bell (Puberty Blues, The Beautiful Lie) as part of Endemol Shine Australia's Smart for a Girl: ROAR, the development program which received funding from Gender Matters: Brilliant Careers.

Imogen Banks and Alice Bell launched Smart for a Girl: ROAR to address the lack of new female voices coming into the TV industry. After an incredible 935 applications were received, the number of places on the program was increased from 12 to 15. Working in groups the successful applicants will be guided by Banks and Bell on how an idea is developed into a television series through the processes of a writers' room.

Imogen Banks said: “There was so much promise inside those 935 applications – it was excruciating limiting ourselves to four projects, so we’ve stretched to five. Gender Matters has unearthed a rich seam of potential and enabled us to tap into it, however lightly. It’s been a hugely rewarding experience already and with our first room running on Monday, we’re about to start the fun part.”

Alice Bell said: “Reading the 935 submissions personally (yes, every single one!) has shown us what we suspected when we set out to create the Smart For A Girl: ROAR initiative – that there is a high level of untapped talent out there. Imogen and I feel privileged to be able to work with these emerging female screenwriters, guiding them into realising their ideas creatively, but also exposing them to the television industry in a nurturing way.”

Nerida Moore, Senior Manager of Development at Screen Australia said: “Gender Matters has afforded these creatives the chance to work with the best in the business, Imogen Banks and Alice Bell, which will be a life-changing opportunity, providing skills and experience that will ultimately enrich the stories we see on our screens. Congratulations to all these fabulous women.”

The successful applicants and the creative ideas they will develop are:

Unruly Girls from creator/writer Clare Young, shadow writer Ella Roby and note-taker Lily Daubney. A mini-series inspired by the 1961 riot at the notorious Parramatta Girls Home, *Unruly Girls* follows a group of delinquent girls learning to kick against a corrupt system and fight to be their own kings.

ID from creator/writer Vanessa Gazy, shadow writer Zuleika Khan and note-taker Katherine Sullivan. In this tense drama series a woman disappears, forcing her estranged, identical twin sister to revisit their murky history and accept that once again the lines between their identities are beginning to blur.

The Spoils from creator/writer Zoe Pepper, writer Anna Lindner and note-taker Lili Owen. In this half-hour drama-comedy a woman chosen to pioneer a new planet wantonly hurls grenades into her life, telling everyone she knows what she really thinks of them – but when the mission is aborted she is forced to stay and piece her life back together.

Reconciliation Rescue from creator/writer Angelina Hurley, shadow writer Alisha Hnatjuk, and note-taker Matilda Ridgeway. This half-hour comedy series follows an Aboriginal woman who finds herself accidentally caught up in bringing the nation together.

Empath from creator/writer Ash Ricardo, shadow writer Imogen McCluskey and note-taker Georgina Love. In this one-hour drama series a woman accidentally discovers that a revolutionary new medical device can read emotion, propelling her into a world of conspiracy, corruption, mass-manipulation and the mysteries of neuroscience.

Imogen Banks and Alice Bell will join these creative teams in a series of writers’ room workshops beginning next week.

AHSN Members’ News and Updates – Daryl Peebles

News from AHSN member, Dr. Daryl Peebles, University of Tasmania.

Dr Daryl Peebles, AHSN member and Convenor of the 2011 Conference in Hobart, has returned to his work as a stand-up comedian – congratulations, Daryl!

Recently, “Jokers Comedy”, the Hobart comedy club, celebrated its 100th show with a Gala Night on

Friday 12 May. Dr Peebles was part of the celebration featuring locals.

According to Daryl, “Anthony Morgan as the headliner was very funny, and the video which shows him (link below), starts a little over-exposed but becomes fine after a few seconds -- when Elsje [Daryl’s partner] zooms in, and I take it from there!”

Check it out on: <https://youtu.be/CV3eEiZkPu0>

Daryl Peebles had a professional career in corporate communications and human resource management while enjoying a parallel pro-am career as an entertainer, predominantly in comedy. He graduated with a PhD from the Tasmanian School of Business and Economics (UTAS) where he researched the value of positive humour in the workplace.

For those thinking of hiring Daryl, his contacts are:

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New Humour Research Network - RIRH

(Réseau interdisciplinaire de recherches sur l’humour)

Five proud co-founders, who hope soon to agree on a common set of pronouns, are delighted to announce the arrival of a new interdisciplinary network of humour researchers called **RIRH (Réseau interdisciplinaire de recherches sur l’humour)**.

Based in Paris and governed by the French law of 1901 on public associations, the network was brought into the world on June 3rd, 2017, by honourable proclamation in the Government's official journal. The network aims to promote and disseminate humour research in all disciplines, and to encourage academic exchange and publications in the field, particularly but by no means exclusively in France and the French-speaking world.

The current office-bearers are:

- President:** Yen-Mai Tran-Gervat
(Comparative Literature, Université Sorbonne Nouvelle – Paris 3)
- Vice-President:** Will Noonan
(English Studies, Université de Bourgogne Franche-Comté)
- Treasurer:** Marie Duret-Pujol
(Theatre Studies, Université de Bordeaux Montaigne)
- Secretary:** Nelly Quéméner
(Information and Communication Sciences, Université Sorbonne Nouvelle – Paris 3)
- Vice-Secretary:** Corinne François-Deneve
(Comparative Literature, Université de Versailles – St Quentin)

Membership is free, on application, to all interested researchers.

Contact us at: association.rirh@gmail.com

Research blog (under construction): <https://rirh.hypotheses.org/>

Ses quatre fondatrices et son fondateur sont heureux.ses de vous annoncer la naissance de l'association **RIRH-réseau interdisciplinaire de recherches sur l'humour**. Publiée au Journal Officiel le 3 juin 2017, cette association de loi 1901 a son siège à Paris. Elle a pour vocation de faciliter les échanges entre les chercheurs travaillant sur l'humour dans toutes les disciplines, notamment mais non exclusivement en langue française, et de favoriser les actions et publications scientifiques dans le domaine, tant au niveau national qu'international.

Le bureau actuel se compose de:

[Yen-Maï Tran-Gervat](#) (Université Sorbonne Nouvelle - Paris 3, littérature générale et comparée), **présidente**

[Will Noonan](#) (Université de Bourgogne Franche-Comté, Etudes anglophones), **vice-président**

[Marie Duret-Pujol](#) (Université de Bordeaux, Etudes théâtrales), **trésorière**

[Nelly Quéméner](#) (Université Sorbonne Nouvelle - Paris 3, Sciences de l'information et de la communication), **secrétaire**

[Corinne François-Denève](#) (UVSQ/Université de Bourgogne, littérature comparée), **secrétaire adjointe**

L'adhésion est gratuite, simplement soumise à validation par le bureau.

Contact: association.rirh@gmail.com

Carnet de recherche (en cours d'élaboration) : <https://rirh.hypotheses.org/>

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New Humour Studies Research Journal – RISU

Rivista Italiana di Studi sull'Umore

Let us laugh and rejoice indeed! A new journal of humour research is about to burst on the scene. Grounded in Italy, it is mainly addressed to the Italian scientific community and readership, but will also have a presence on the international stage. It plans to include at least one article in English each issue, contributed by authors from countries other than Italy.

The Editors in Chief are Alberto Dionigi (Federazione Nazionale Clowndottori) and Laura Vagnoli (Healthcare Clowning Research International Network - H-CRIN+). The Book Review Editor is

Giovannantonio Forabosco (Centro Ricerca Umoreismo - CRU).

The new journal's website is: www.risu.biz

The Journal will be online, open source, multidisciplinary, peer reviewed, with two issues per annum. It intends to cover all aspects relating very broadly to humour.

Please send expressions of interest about contributions to:

Alberto Dionigi: presidenza@fnc-italia.org

Laura Vagnoli: lauravagnoli@virgilio.it

Members' New Humour Publications

Ross Fitzgerald and Ian McFadyen. 2017. *Going Out Backwards: A Grafton Everest Adventure*. Melbourne: Hybrid Publishing (print and e-book).

Bio-note: Emeritus Professor of History and Politics at Griffith University, Ross Fitzgerald AM is the author of 39 books, most recently this political/sexual satire, which was shortlisted for the 2017 Russell Prize for Humour Writing. Ross is best known for his memoir, *My Name is Ross: An Alcoholic's Journey* (Sydney: NewSouth Books, available as e-Book and Talking Book from Vision Australia).

Mahmud Farjami. 2017. *Iranian Political Satirists: Experience and Motivation in the Contemporary Era*. Topics in Humor Research No. 5. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.

<https://benjamins.com/#catalog/books/thr.5/main>

ISHS Report and Images

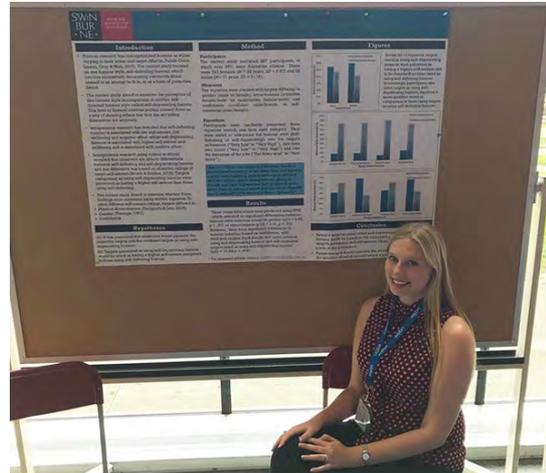
The Université du Québec à Montréal played host for the twenty-ninth meeting of the International Society for Humor Studies in Montreal, Canada. Taking advantage of strong local connections to Montreal's world famous "Just for Laughs" festival, the conference featured particularly insightful sessions on the business of comedy and the increasing visibility of stand-up, as well as thematic focuses on political humour, gender and humour, clowning and health, philosophy and humour, and Persianate humour. The latter featured a new book on Iranian satire by AHSN member, Mahmud Farjami, presented on his behalf by another, Mostafa Abedinifard (University of Alberta).

AHSN members Moira Marsh (Indiana University) and Nicholas Holm (Massey University), along with Sammy Basu (Willamette University), spoke in a panel addressing "Political Humour in the Age of Trump". Addressing the possibilities and limitations of humour as a form of politics, the panel drew plenty of interest from both conference delegates and local media, with a story about it appearing in the French-language newspaper, *La Presse*.

Other AHSN members took part in a panel on “Translation and Terminology of Humour”: Will Noonan, Université de Bourgogne à Dijon (founding editor of the AHSN e-newsletter), Kerry Mullan (RMIT, with Cliff Goddard, Griffith University), together with Yen-Mai Tran-Gervat (Université Sorbonne Nouvelle - Paris 3) who was a visiting speaker for the AHSN in Sydney last year. AHSN members Debra Aarons (UNSW) and Cao Ying (UWS) also presented papers, as did Aubrey Mellor (LaSalle College, Singapore) and Kirsten Kneisel (University of Auckland). An Australasian perspective was well represented.



Kerry Mullan, Debra Aarons, Moira Marsh and Will Noonan



Robyn Brown's poster presentation



Kerry Mullan presenting her and Cliff Goddard’s paper on Explicating Verbs for “Laughing with Other People” in French and English



Nicholas Holm on the Online Deadpan & Comic Disposition.



Delia Chiaro, ISHS President, presenting on the panel titled - Laughing at Politicians Transnationally:
Left, right and centre



Debra Aarons presenting with Delia Chiaro, Chiara Bucaria and Anthony Mitzel.



In vertical order - Will Noonan, Yen-Mai Tran-Gervat and Kerry Mullan.



And everyone's favourite - poutine.

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.