



AHSN Digest – March 2026

Message from the Chair of the AHSN Board

The annual AHSN conference is always a great way to start the year and this year we were warmly welcomed at Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington. Despite the potentially provocative theme of *Difficult Conversations*, the two keynotes, two panels (one of which was an interdisciplinary look at a single comic text) and the interestingly combined sessions of excellent presentations, everything worked extremely well together, and it all made for some extremely enjoyable and intellectually stimulating ‘difficult conversations’.

The conference Convenors Stephen Skalicky, Lydia Chan (both Victoria University of Wellington) and Nick Holm (Massey University), are to be thanked and congratulated profusely on organising a wonderful three days, with mostly excellent weather, despite all their predictions in the 12-month lead up to the conference! The specially branded coffee cups they provided have now made their way back around the world (Australia, China, Hong Kong, Japan, New Zealand, Poland, Singapore, UK, USA) as a great reminder of our time together. (Watch this space for a possible presentation at AHSN 2027 on humour in the medical profession from a delegate from that OTHER conference that was running alongside ours in our host building who approached me to ask about my coffee cup!)



The iconic coffee cup in question

Thank you to all our delegates for your attendance and contributions to the conversations – difficult or otherwise. Without you, there is no conference!

Please take that as an open invitation to attend next year's conference which returns to Melbourne (see item below).

Wishing everyone teaching in Australasia an excellent start to the academic year, and looking forward to welcoming the AHSN 2027 delegates from around the world.

Kerry

Chair of the AHSN Board

Global and Language Studies, RMIT University

Melbourne VIC 3001, Australia

AHSN2026 COMMITTEE BOWS OUT

From the Exhausted but Proud AHSN 32 Conference Convenors:

Kia ora all,

A final note from Aotearoa to thank all delegates of the 32nd Australasian Humour Studies Network Conference. Across three days we sank our teeth into those difficult conversations so many of you seem to now enjoy (dare I say, prefer?). You got some proper Wellington weather, with a mid day, a fantastic day, and then a bunch of rain. In tandem with the conference, we hope you all had time to take in what our fair city has to offer, and look forward to seeing you all in Big Wellington (aka Melbourne) next year.

For those of you who remained in Wellington beyond that last Saturday, all we can really do is shrug our shoulders and tell you we also don't understand how a "once in a century" windstorm can happen twice in a three month period.

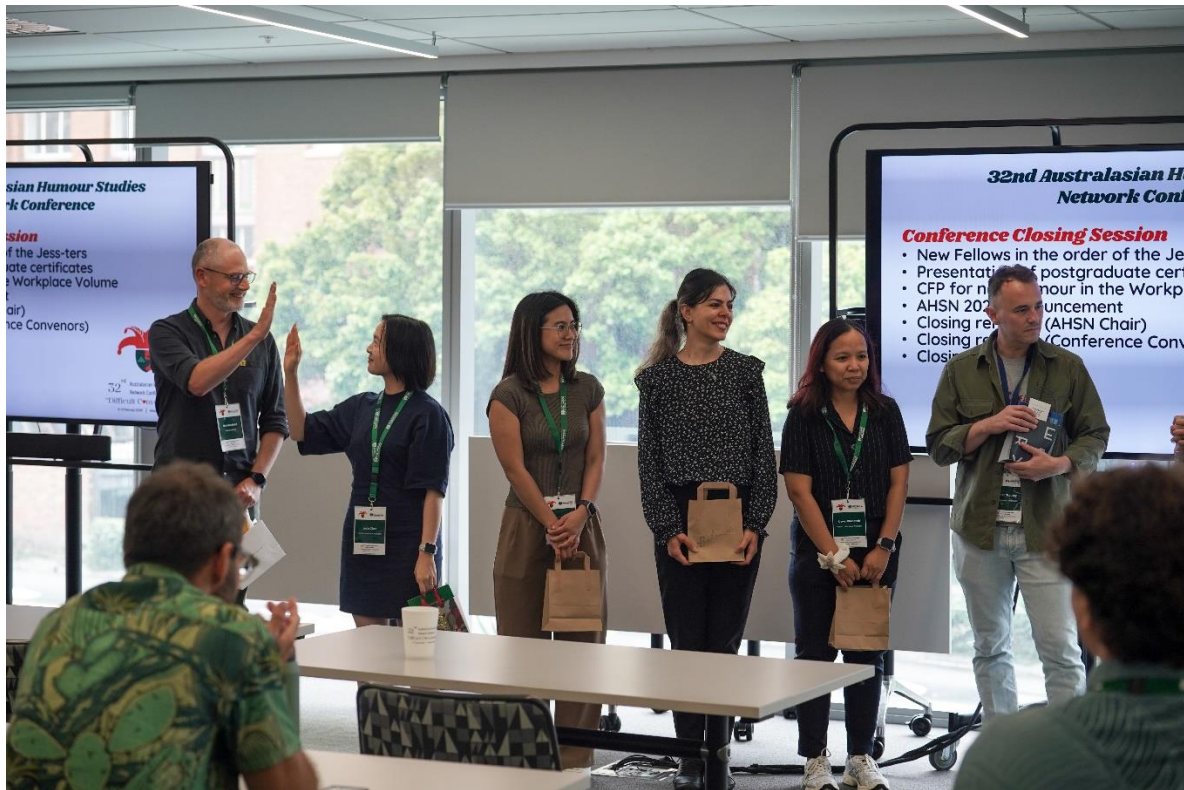
It did not escape our attention that there was a severe lack of hooter honking this year, same as last, so maybe that's something that the convenors for AHSN 33 can make mandatory?

Anyhow, we'll end here by once again thanking you all for your attendance and participation at AHSN 32. Go well and see you next year!

Ka kite anō,

Stephen, Nick, & Lydia

From the Editors: And a huge thank-you and congratulations to all three of you! You set a high bar for AHSN 33 and we look forward to seeing you all there next February! Read on for more reports and pictures of our AHSN 32.



Editors: Another thank you to the organisers and volunteers who helped out across the three days!

AHSN2026 Conference Report

Kia ora! The 32nd Australasian Humour Studies Network (AHSN) Annual Conference recently took place in lovely Wellington — not too wet, not too windy, and a very much success. Held at Te Herenga Waka/Victoria University of Wellington, Aotearoa, the conference brought together scholars from across countries and disciplines into dialogue around this year's theme, *“Difficult Conversations (or, the Brouhaha in Aotearoa)”*.



Te Herenga Waka — Victoria University of Wellington, Aotearoa

As an early career researcher attending for the first time, I had mentally prepared myself for three days of literal “difficult conversations” — you know, the kind where you aggressively overthink how to say a casual ‘hello’ to scholars you’ve only ever seen in APA citations.

However, the Opening Ceremony quickly proved my worries unnecessary. Following a Māori Karakia and warm opening remarks from the AHSN organising committee and host university, the room settled into a perfectly welcoming atmosphere — sunlight through the windows, coffee in hand, easy smiles exchanged, and, naturally, a foam-cube microphone flying across the room for the Q&A. With that, the “difficult conversations” officially began.

While humour studies is a successful example of interdisciplinary scholarship, the conference theme reminded us that underneath the surface, trouble lurks: we often work alongside one another without genuinely learning from each other. This underlying friction — struggling to define humour itself — was perfectly captured in Dr. Jessica Milner Davis’s opening keynote, *‘Words, words, words and difficult conversations’*. She frankly exposed the academic friction of cross-disciplinary jargon, pointing out how a term like “style” means something completely different to a psychologist than it does to a humanities scholar.

Shifting from definition to evaluation, Dr. Sarah Balkin’s keynote, *‘Telling the audience who they are: a weak theory of comedy’*, challenged our “critical rigidity”. She warned against trapping comedy in fixed binaries, proposing instead a “weak” approach that finds humour’s true meaning at the living intersection of performance and reception. Together, these keynotes captured the summit’s core ambition: it is time to talk openly and collegially about ‘what humour is’ and ‘how we study it’.

Stepping into the concurrent sessions on the mezzanine level of Rutherford House, I was struck by the sheer variety of the research across psychology, linguistics, folklore, literary

studies, history, media and communication, and sociology. As a first-time attendee, I honestly hadn't anticipated such a rich lineup. While it was physically impossible to catch every panel (sad!), the sessions I attended were truly eye-opening.

The summit showcased an incredible breadth of topics, ranging from the role of humour in cross-cultural diplomacy to geolinguistic analyses of Ukrainian wartime tweets, from the untranslatable mechanics of internet memes to the visibility paradox of sexual humour in queer culture, from how comedy navigates the heavy taboo of suicidality to the unexpected emotional intimacy between human and smart devices, and from the creative processes behind controversial stand-up material to the spontaneous jokes within political live streams. Despite the disciplinary differences, every room shared a genuine curiosity to understand humour studies from new, interdisciplinary perspectives.

Within this open environment, I presented my own research on AI's co-creation in flexible comedy (luckily, in the same session with my supervisor). Honestly, I had prepared a "magic formula" for the Q&A: simply nod at any difficult question, saying, "I am still in the early stages of my research."

However, once again, I must say that AHSN is an exceptionally supportive and welcoming space for scholars, especially emerging researchers like me. Rather than facing harsh criticism, the subsequent Q&A was deeply rewarding. The discussions brought generous and constructive insights from different disciplinary perspectives on humour studies, which genuinely pushed my thinking forward.



Panel Discussion 'Comedy in difficult times' chaired by Assoc. Prof. Nicholas Holm, featuring Samantha Hannah, Lesa MacLeod-Whiting, and Daniel Vernon

If the concurrent sessions sparked individual curiosities, the plenary panels brought these "difficult conversations" directly to the main stage. The first panel, 'Comedy in difficult times'

chaired by Assoc. Prof. Nicholas Holm, featured comedy practitioners Samantha Hannah, Lesa MacLeod-Whiting, and Daniel Vernon. They provided raw, real-world insights into navigating controversy and making comedy during confronting times — even playfully sharing their unfiltered opinions on people who study humour for a living.

The second panel, *'Constructing (? or construing) humour in Australian texts'* chaired by Dr. Debra Aarons, shifted the focus back to a vigorous academic debate. Prof. Robert Phiddian, Prof. Michael Haugh, and Dr. Jessica Milner Davis tackled how to formally identify intended humour in unfamiliar texts. It was fascinating to witness them clash and collaborate across disciplines, applying everything from literary narrative voice to linguistic pragmatics and reader-writer co-construction.

The exchanges in these panels were so intense, and the desire to share perspective so overwhelming, that almost everyone cheerfully ran overtime. It was a perfect, slightly chaotic, live demonstration of scholars and practitioners genuinely trying to work with one another.



The Wonderful Conference Dinner at Waitoa

The dialogue didn't stop at the panel doors. These academic debates generously spilled over into morning/afternoon teas, the conference dinner, and any chance encounters across campus — relaxed, generous, and happening everywhere.

Adding to this vibrant atmosphere was a special book launch event. Introduced by Prof. Kerry Mullan, we gathered to celebrate the release of Dr. Beatriz Carbajal-Carrear's new book, *The Coloniality of Language in Digital Humour*. A huge congratulations on this fantastic achievement! (*Editor's note: you can find more information about Beatriz's book and a photo from the launch in the New Books section!*)

As the saying goes, good times are always short-lived. Finally, we were gathered for the Awards and Closing Ceremony, chaired by Prof. Kerry Mullan. In true humour studies fashion, the session kicked off with a wonderfully lively induction of the new Fellows (Dr. Stephen Skalicky, Assoc. Prof. Nicholas Holm, and Prof. Meredith Marra) into the Order of

the Jess-ters. Seeing Dr. Jessica donning a literal jester's hat to pin medals on the researchers was a delightful highlight that perfectly captured the playful spirit of this network.



Congratulations to the new Jess-ters!

Following the laughs, Prof. Kerry Mullan presented the postgraduate certificates to five scholarship recipients. As one of those lucky recipients, I want to express my deepest gratitude for AHSN's invaluable support for new researchers. The ceremony then looked toward the future, announcing a Call for Papers for a new *Humour in the Workplace* volume, followed by the highly anticipated reveal of our next gathering: AHSN 2027 will be hosted at RMIT in Melbourne!

After warm closing remarks from both the AHSN Chair and the Conference Convenors, the summit concluded just as beautifully as it began — with a closing Māori Karakia.



Many thanks to Daniel Burgess for the Karakia!

As we bid farewell to Wellington, the true success of AHSN 2026 became abundantly clear. The original Call for Papers invited us to “address the frictions and fault lines” of our field, to politely ask the difficult questions, and to critically reflect on our own methodological limits. Looking back at these three days, we didn't just talk *about* these “difficult conversations” — we actually had them. It is only through this shared intellectual humility that we can build a more mature academic community — one equipped to truly learn from, collaborate with, and, when necessary, constructively disagree with one another.

Interestingly, life always understands comedy better than theory. At the very last moment of the conference, my supervisor threw the ultimate “difficult conversation” at me: “Did you know the NZ airline is on strike? You must check your flight (not kidding).” It turns out that reality is full of humour and drama — or, in our academic jargon, an “*expectancy violation*”. Yet, amidst the uncertainty it brought, I spent some time happily riding the Wellington cable car, eating a perfect Eggs Benedict, and overlooking the stunning views of the Wellington Botanic Garden highly recommended by my supervisors. Looking out over the city, I realised that life is indeed full of unexpected twists, and, of course, “difficult conversations”, but it remains profoundly beautiful, much like humour studies itself.

Thank you to the organising committee for this perfect academic feast, and to all the researchers for your generosity, humour, and conversations that shaped this conference. I can't wait to see what hilarious expectancy violations await us next year in Melbourne! Many thanks, and love you all!

Author Bio

Angel (Anqi) Wen is a PhD candidate in Theatre and Performance Studies (TaPs) at the University of Sydney. Her work explores the intersection of generative AI and improvisational (or ‘flexible’) comedy, with a focus on co-creation, audience reception, and the ethics of human-machine performance. She is also active as a comedian, film curator, and reality show director, integrating creative practice with scholarly research.



Eds: For photos of all the amazing five scholarship winners being presented with their richly-deserved certificates, see below.



Daniel Burgess (Ngāpuhi), Humanities, Media, & Creative Communication, Massey University (Distance)



Marie Carlier, UCLouvain, Belgium (Iacchos), and Language, Social & Political Science, University of Canterbury, Christchurch



Suchi Chowdhury, Media and Communication, RMIT University



Tinnaphop Sinsomboonthong (Tintin), Sociology & Anthropology, National University of Singapore



Anqi Wen, Art, Communication & English/Theatre & Performance Studies, University of Sydney

And Now for our Next Conference...!

AHSN Heads to Melbourne

10-12 February 2027

Wominjeka (welcome, come with purpose),

Pack your Myki (travel) cards: the **33rd Australasian Humour Studies Network (AHSN) Conference** will be held at **RMIT University, Melbourne (Naarm)**, from **10-12 February 2027**.

After years of being voted one of the world's "most liveable" cities and then having to spend much of that time indoors, Melbourne has decided to lean fully into what it does best: infrastructure works, coffee, and complaining about infrastructure works over coffee.

RMIT, conveniently located in the heart of the CBD – within striking distance of approximately 47 cafés, 12 tram routes, and at least one inexplicable pop-up art installation – is delighted to host the next gathering of humour scholars, practitioners and enthusiasts.

By 2027, we expect Melbourne's endless cycle of "transformative urban improvement projects" to have reached its final form: a perfectly calibrated system in which every route between your accommodation and campus is technically possible, but requires at least one rail replacement bus and a spontaneous walking tour of an alleyway filled with ironic street art. Fortunately, AHSN delegates are uniquely qualified to interpret the difference between intended and unintended humour in all of the above.

So, **start planning your pilgrimage to RMIT in February 2027**. Whether you come for the papers, the laneway graffiti, the comedy clubs, or simply to test the limits of how many excellent flat whites a humour scholar can consume in three days, we look forward to welcoming you to Melbourne for **AHSN 2027**.

Further details, including theme, keynote speakers, and call for papers, will follow in due course.

For more information contact Mark Gibson: mark.gibson2@rmit.edu.au

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AUSTRALIA

International Society for Humor Studies

2026 Conference at UFF, Brazil

Call for Papers & Registration Now Open!



The Organizing Committee would like to inform you that registration and submissions are now open for the 36th International Society for Humor Studies Annual Conference, to be held in Niterói, at Fluminense Federal University (UFF), from July 6 to 10, 2026. Information regarding fees and submission deadlines is available on the official website: ishs2026.org. Also please follow [@ishs2026](https://www.instagram.com/ishs2026) at Instagram for latest news!

Interested participants may submit proposals for [individual papers](#), [panels](#) and [roundtables](#).

Individual paper abstracts are submitted by authors or groups of authors. Thematic panels, consisting of three to five paper proposals, are submitted as pre-organized, self-managed sessions by panel coordinators. Open format roundtables may also be proposed by coordinators, who will indicate the invited participants. The conference's different Special Interest Groups (SIGs) include Online Humor, Humor and Artificial Intelligence, Humor and Freedom of Expression, Humor and the Global South, Multimodal Humor, Screen Comedy, and much more.

The ISHS will also grant awards for Best Full Paper, Best Presentation, and Best Graduate Student Work (Master's and Doctoral levels), including an unprecedented award for the Best Doctoral Thesis written in Portuguese.

Submission deadlines are February 27 (for panels and roundtables) and March 27 (for individual paper proposals).

Further information and inquiries can be found on the conference website or by contacting us at humorstudies@midia.uff.br.

Humor and Artificial Intelligence Panel

36th International Society for Humor Studies Conference (ISHS 2026) Niterói, Brazil, July 6 to 10, 2026

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION DEADLINE: MARCH 24, 2026

Call for papers

As in previous years, the [Humor and AI Special Interest Group](#) of the International Society for Humor Studies will hold a panel at the 36th International Society for Humor Studies Conference (ISHS 2026). ISHS is a multidisciplinary conference organized and attended by humor researchers in diverse fields, including linguistics, psychology, sociology, computer science, folklore, literary studies, and many others.

We invite paper presentations on AI-based technology for generating, processing, or analyzing humor. Contributions should be grounded in humor theory or other relevant theoretical frameworks, demonstrating how theory informs the design, analysis, or application of AI methods. (Submissions that focus solely on AI tools without clear theoretical motivation or connection to humor research are outside the scope of this call.) Application areas include, but are not limited to:

- human–computer interaction
- computer-mediated communication
- intelligent writing assistants
- conversational agents
- machine and computer-assisted translation
- digital humanities
- natural language processing
- computer vision

Submission instructions

Per ISHS 2026 policy, each (co-)author of the submission must separately register beforehand for the conference using [this form](#). Because the submission is for a pre-organized panel, co-authors should answer "No" to the question "Do you wish to send a proposal/work in your registration?" Payment of the conference fee is not required at submission time, but will be required of **all** co-authors of submissions accepted for presentation.

The corresponding (co-)author should then e-mail the following information to the panel organizers at ishs-ai@groups.io:

1. Title
2. 250-word abstract
3. 3 keywords
4. Name, short biography, and conference registration code for each (co-)author

Conveners

Kiki Hempelmann, East Texas A&M University
Tristan Miller, University of Manitoba
Julia M. Rayz, Purdue University

Call for Papers 2026 Lighthearted Philosophers' Society



Dates: October 9-10, 2026

Location: [Kurt Vonnegut Museum and Library](#)

Accommodations [Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre](#)

Please join us for the 20th anniversary meeting of the [Lighthearted Philosophers' Society](#) (LPS) Meeting at the Kurt Vonnegut Museum and Library in Indianapolis, IN, October, 9-10 2026.

The LPS is the oldest continuously running society dedicated to the philosophically inspired study of laughter and humor. The LPS encourages and welcomes submissions on topics related to humor and laughter and even humorous philosophical works. Submissions can come in the form of full papers suitable for presentation and comment in under an hour, roughly 3000 words. Extended abstract submissions are accepted (roughly 750--1000 words) as well as panel discussions (300 word description and list of panelists). Please submit proposals using the following form [here](#).

For any inquiries or questions, please reach out to the current president of the LPS, [Mike Cundall](#), [here](#).

Further Information

- 1) Full paper submissions: Please prepare papers with limited time for presentation in mind (2,500-3,000 words is preferable).
- 2) Panel proposal: Panel description should be 350-500 words and should specify what each panelist will contribute.
- 3) Individual Short Performances: Submissions should include a 350-500 word rationale describing the theoretical contribution of the performance piece as well as a 350-500 word

abstract describing the nature of the performance itself. Please include any audio-visual requests in the abstract.

Selected papers will be considered for the Joseph S. Ellin Memorial Essay Prize (\$100)

Selected hecklers will be considered for the Richard C. Richards Almost Memorial Prize (\$50)

Submission Deadlines June 15th, 2026.

New Issue of Humour Journal

The Humour Observatory (OH) Montreal

SÉRIEUX? Humour: Savoirs et Pratiques, vol. 4 (Autumn 2025)



[The Observatoire de l'humour \(OH\)](#) is pleased to present the fourth volume of the journal [Sérieux? Humour: Savoirs et pratiques](#).

This journal aims to provide a forum for the dissemination of academic research, reflections and commentary on humour in French. Based in Quebec and with a reading committee from a variety of backgrounds, it is open to the entire French-speaking world and is multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary in nature. In addition, the journal *Sérieux? Savoirs et pratiques* is available online and is open access. The journal has two main sections: the first focuses on Knowledge (*Savoirs*), with the aim of better understanding and analysing the role of humour in all spheres of society through various fields of research, including sociology, history, political science, communication, literature, philosophy, management, etc. The Practices (*Pratiques*) section seeks to better understand what characterises the field of humour, including the debates and concerns that animate it, its history, and the creative processes of those who practise it.

Issue and Article Links

[Full issue](#)

[PDF of articles and sections](#)

[Thériault – Laughing at the worst.](#)

[Alexandre-Pimparé – BAnQ Archives.](#)

[Savoie – Podcasting.](#)

[Creation.](#)

[Historical chronicle – Albéric Bourgeois.](#)

[Publications.](#)

[Statistics on the comedy industry.](#)

[Theses and dissertations.](#)

Feel free to share with your networks.

Happy reading!

François and Emmanuel

serieux@sprott.carleton.ca

Serious? Humour: Knowledge and Practices

<http://observatoiredelhumour.org/serieux>

François Brouard, DBA, FCPA, FCA

Full Professor

Sprott School of Business, Carleton University

Emmanuel Choquette, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor

Department of Communication, Université de Sherbrooke

AHSN Member Awarded Major Royal Society Te Aparangi Research Grant



Stephen Skalicky, from the School of Linguistics and Applied Language Studies, Victoria University of Wellington/Te Herenga Waka, has won a major grant for his humour research from the Royal Society of NZ/Te Aparangi!

His Marsden Fund Council Fast Start research grant from the Royal Society Te Aparangi is for \$360,000NZD over three years. The focus of the work is on cognitive representations of irony, with the goal to test theoretical predictions that irony is a universal cognitive perception which occurs above the level of language. The project will comprise the creation of a database, several psycholinguistic experiments, and the development of computational representations of irony. Stephen was the only member of his Faculty (FHSS) who was successful in securing [Marsden funding](#) for the 2025 application round and he is excited to begin working on the project in March of 2026. Watch a recent [TVNZ Q+A segment featuring Stephen's project](#).



Sad Passing of Great Australian Cartoonist Jon Kudelka, Keynote Speaker for AHSN 2012 and 2022



Jon Kudelka. Photo: Adam Hollingsworth/The Walkley Foundation

From Stephanie Brookes, Richard Scully and Robert Phiddian. *The Conversation*, 10 February 2026. 'As beautiful as they were powerful: Jon Kudelka's political cartoons were made with true conviction.' At: <https://theconversation.com/as-beautiful-as-they-were-powerful-jon-kudelkas-political-cartoons-were-made-with-true-conviction-275538>

The media and cartooning world shifted mightily between Jon Kudelka's earliest contributions to *The Mercury* in Hobart in the early 1990s and to his last regular gig at *The Saturday Paper*, before the diagnosis and treatment of his glioblastoma sparked retirement in April 2025.

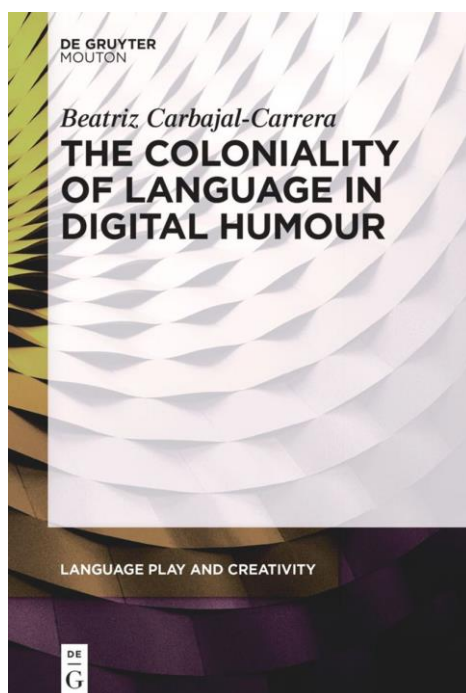
In contributions to these publications, and *The Australian* and *The Age*, Kudelka's cartoons have been published for readers across the political spectrum, resisting the polarisation of the contemporary Australian media.

The award-winning cartoonist died in Hobart on Sunday, aged 53. Alongside the cartoons, he had a flourishing creative career evident to anyone who wandered into the Kudelka Gallery in Salamanca Place that was [envisioned as a "retirement policy"](#).

Eds: *The full obituary can be read at The Conversation [here](#)*

Members' New Books

Beatriz Carbajal-Carrera. 2026. *The Coloniality of Language in Digital Humour*. De Gruyter Mouton. pp. 220, 12 b/w, 9 colour ill. DOI [10.1515/9783111635156](https://doi.org/10.1515/9783111635156). Hardcover ISBN 978-311-16-3488-3; eBook ISBN 978-311-16-3515-6



Overview

Humour has not yet been systematically analysed from a decolonial perspective. This book addresses the coloniality of language in online humour from an interdisciplinary decolonial linguistics approach that places attentional processes at the centre of the analysis. Its chapters contribute to linguistic research with a novel theoretical framework for the analysis of digital humour by foregrounding attentional processes and power relations. The

contributions made in its pages stem from the recognition that coloniality is so profoundly embedded in our communicative practices that it often remains unnoticed. For that reason, the book invites the reader to reflect on how we exercise attention.

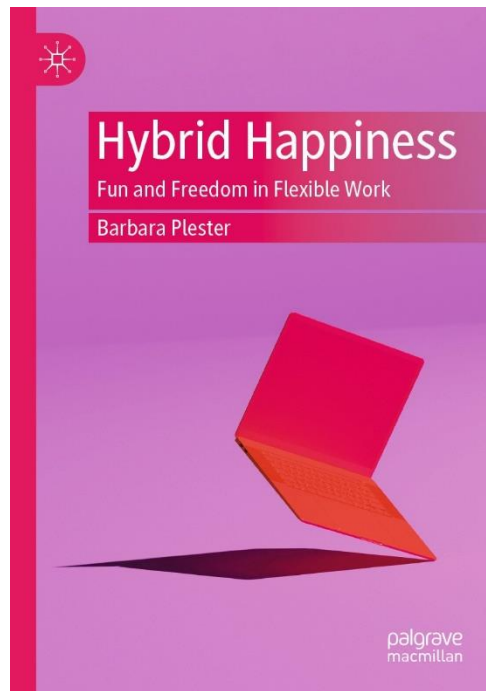
Author Information

Beatriz Carbajal-Carrera is a senior lecturer in the School of Languages and Cultures at The University of Sydney, Australia. She is also the Book Review Editor of the Australasian Humour Studies Network and a member of the AHSN Board. Her research and publications contribute to a nuanced understanding of the ways in which language conceptualises knowledge.



Beatriz's book launch by Kerry Mullan at the AHSN2026 conference in Wellington!

Barbara Plester. 2025. *Hybrid Happiness: Fun and Freedom in Flexible Work*. London & Cham: Palgrave Macmillan/Springer. pp. XIX, 116; 6 b/w, 4 colour ill. DOI <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-95-2092-3>. Softcover ISBN 978-981-95-2091-6; eBook ISBN 978-981-95-2092-3



Topics

Industrial and Organizational Psychology, Diversity Management/Women in Business, Business Ethics, Social Work and Community Development

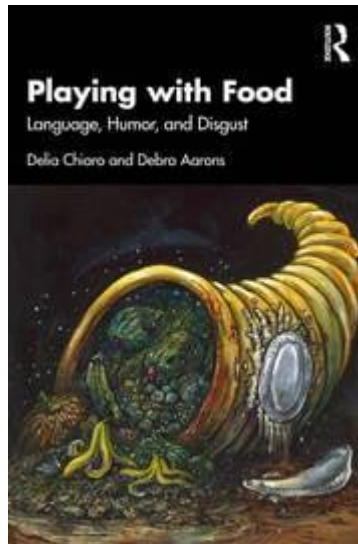
Overview

- Offers a unique exploration of the social and emotional impacts of working in hybrid work modes
- Based on recent ethnographic research exploring how hybrid work has changed workplace behaviours and interactions
- Elaborates on how social aspects of work are increasingly important in hybrid settings

Author Bio

Barbara Plester is Associate Professor in the Department of Management and International Business (MIB) at the University of Auckland. She is also Associate Dean Equity, Diversity and Inclusion for her faculty. Her research explores workplace humour, fun, organizational culture, technological behaviour, food rituals and organizational life. She is currently researching the impact of hybrid work on fun and well-being. Within her department Barbara belongs to the Organisation Studies research group and she teaches critical management, people management and organizational theory at undergraduate and postgraduate levels. Her previous books include: *The Complexity of Workplace Humour* (Springer, 2016) and *Laugh Out Loud* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2019).

Delia Chiaro and Debra Aarons. *Playing with Food: Language, Humor, and Disgust*. New York: Routledge. pp. 226. DOI <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003148241>. eBook ISBN 978-100-31-4824-1



Overview

Playing with Food: Language, Humor, and Disgust is the first book to explore the interplay of food, humor, and disgust in multimodal media.

Chiaro and Aarons note that, whenever food and comedy intersect, disgust is rarely far behind. Grounded in the theoretical framework of Carnival, the authors analyze the affective, cognitive, and corporeal responses to food, highlighting the central role of humor both in the way we talk about food and in our perception of the body and disgust. Through a rich array of texts, from everyday language and literature to video, advertising, music, politics, and beyond, this book advances a comprehensive examination of the wider notion of taste.

With diverse, detailed case studies and an accessible, lively style, *Playing with Food* is an invaluable resource for students and researchers of Linguistics, Humor Studies, Food Studies, Psychology, Media Studies, Social Anthropology, and related fields.

Author Bionotes

Delia Chiaro is Professor Emerita at the University of Bologna, Italy. She writes on Humor and Translation and has authored studies on how wordplay is translated in diverse media. Her books include *The Language of Jokes* (Routledge, 1992) and *The Language of Jokes in the Digital Age* (Routledge, 2017).

Debra Aarons is Senior Lecturer in Linguistics and Applied Linguistics at the University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia. She writes on Humor and Language and has

coauthored, along with Marc Mierowsky, a series of articles in Comedy Studies about stand-up. She is the author of Jokes and the Linguistic Mind (Routledge, 2012).

Members' New Publications

Angelina Hurley. 2026. Blak Humour: The Strategic Role and Healing Power of Humour in Aboriginal Wellbeing and Survival. *Genealogy*, 10(1), 22.
<https://doi.org/10.3390/genealogy10010022>

REMEMBER: AHSN members are warmly encouraged to send along the reference information for any of their new publications for inclusion in the Digest either to the Acting Editor Geoffrey Lee at Geoffrey.lee1@sydney.edu.au, or Co-Editor Jessica at Jessica.davis@sydney.edu.au.

The Humour Studies Digest

The Australasian Humour Studies Network (AHSN)

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

Send your Digest Submissions to our Editor, Geoffrey Lee at:

geoffrey.lee1@sydney.edu.au,

...or to our veteran Co-Editor Jessica at Jessica.davis@sydney.edu.au.

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