



Australasian Humour Studies Network



AHSN Digest – December 2023

STOP PRESS!

Update and Reminder to Register for AHSN2024

The Conference Committee is pleased to announce details of the **AHSN2024 Keynote Speakers and their lectures.**

Delia Chiaro (University of Bologna), will speak on *Criss-cross Humour, aka Translation Across the Great Divide*

Abstract

This talk will deal with the complexity of translating humour from one language to another highlighting the fact that translational difficulties are not limited to language alone but also to cultural references that are usually only typical of the lingua-cultural community of the original exemplar. Translation is increasingly relevant today as English has become the digital lingua franca, and humour couched in English is widely consumed in diverse media. Consumers/ speakers who are not completely fluent in English may lack the cultural context required to understand some of the humour which is based on various cultural aspects of the language context. The digital ubiquity of humour in English means that languages other than English require translation into English in order to occupy a place on global platforms. So far, the topic of humour translation has been mainly studied in literary disciplines and has focused on issues related to equivalence and translatability. Currently, though, as humour and debates concerning humour are becoming ever more prominent within the public sphere, the translation of humour has gained in importance in all computer-mediated communication especially in the diverse subfields of media studies, advertising, and digital humanities in general. Of increasing centrality is the development of various AI (artificial intelligence) programs to understand, create and translate contextual humour. As will be discussed, this remains one of the toughest challenges for the translation of humour, which is so culturally and contextually bound.

Bionote

Professor Chiaro from the Department of Interpreting and Translation at the University of Bologna (Italy) is a world-renowned expert in translation and humour studies, with a particular focus on the perception of verbally expressed humour on screen (film, television and video games) across different linguistic and cultural boundaries. She was also President of the International Society of Humor Studies (ISHS) from 2015-2017.

Kerry Mullan (RMIT University), will speak on ‘Resident Superhero’: Community Veneration as Social Action

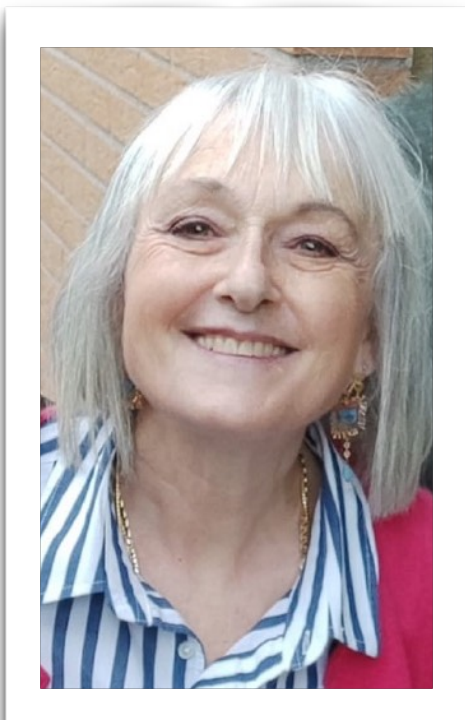
Abstract

This presentation will examine the social action of community veneration of a local plumber by members of a neighbourhood Facebook group, the vast majority of whom do not know each other personally (nor necessarily the plumber). Particular attention will be paid to the way in which this veneration (or “hero worship”) is co-constructed through linguistic creativity and humour, such as limericks, exaggeration and terms of reverence. In addition to these linguistic devices, it will be shown how the participants actively exploit the online environment for the purposes of creating context-dependent humour through emojis, memes, and other graphics. The selected examples will illustrate how this collaborative veneration also fosters a sense of positivity and belonging in this group of online strangers.

The examples will be analysed following the linguistic theoretical and methodological approaches outlined in Computer-Mediated Discourse Analysis, e.g., interactional pragmatics; conversational analysis; discourse, image, theme and feature analysis. A participant-observer ethnographic approach will also be employed. This allows for identification of the various contextualization cues that signal in-group humour, in order to more fully understand and describe the interactional practices of how the members of this community venerate their local plumber in this specific online context.

Bionote

Associate Professor Kerry Mullan from the School of Global, Urban and Social Studies at RMIT University (Australia) is an internationally recognised expert in cross-cultural communication, with particular focus on humour studies and pragmatics. Much of her work on humour has focused on conversational humour in French and (Australian) English, and more recently she has also been advancing work on humour in social media. She is currently Chair of the Board of the Australasian Humour Studies Network.



Professor Chiara



Associate Professor Kerry Mullan

Editors: Welcome Delia and Kerry – power combination!

Registration Reminder and Conference Information

Don't miss out, register now for the Conference so that you can attend, hear these speakers and interact with two internationally recognised humour scholars and many others who are confirmed presenters. The full program will issue in the New Year but the Conference runs from 7 to 9 February at The University of Queensland's St Lucia campus, Brisbane. Although Early Bird rego closed on 1 December, you can still **register online** with concessions for students and the unwaged available at: <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1102181>

Information on the conference location, accommodation options and travel is also to be found at the AHSN website: <https://ahsnhumourstudies.org/annual-conference/>

Travellers please note: to facilitate the arrival of interstate and overseas delegates, the Conference will not begin before the afternoon of Wednesday 7 February 2024. It will close late afternoon, Friday 9 February 2024, with awards, thanks and the induction of three new Fellows in AHSN's Order of the Jess-ters (see AHSN Humour Studies Digest August September for full details at: <https://ahsnhumourstudies.org/newsletter/>).

The Editors of the AHSN Digest express their sincere thanks to all the Conference Committee led by Prof. Michael Haugh, University of Queensland. We're looking forward to seeing many old and new AHSN members in Brisbane next year and enjoying a great Conference.

Jessica Milner Davis
Lucien Leon

Announcing the AHSN2024 Scholars

The AHSN2024 Conference Committee is pleased to announce the 2024 AHSN Scholars all of whom will present their award-winning papers at the upcoming Conference at The University of Queensland, 7-9 February 2024.

Suchi Chowdury (RMIT), Humorously Hinglish: Delimiting access through Hindi-English code-switching in Indian stand-up comedy



Abstract

With the rise of right-wing nationalism in India, political satire – and other forms of dissent - have been fiercely decried by supporters of India's ruling party. Comedians ridiculing BJP leaders or their ideology, have been trolled, abused, given threats of rape and death, and also, in one instance, arrested and jailed. To minimise such risks, comedians - who still continue to do political jokes - use a mix of Hindi and English in their routines so that the import of their jokes may not be easily comprehensible to those with limited English language knowledge. Broadly speaking, a major section of the population of northern India are pro-BJP; the prevalence of education in general, and English-language education in particular, have been less in these states in comparison to the southern states.

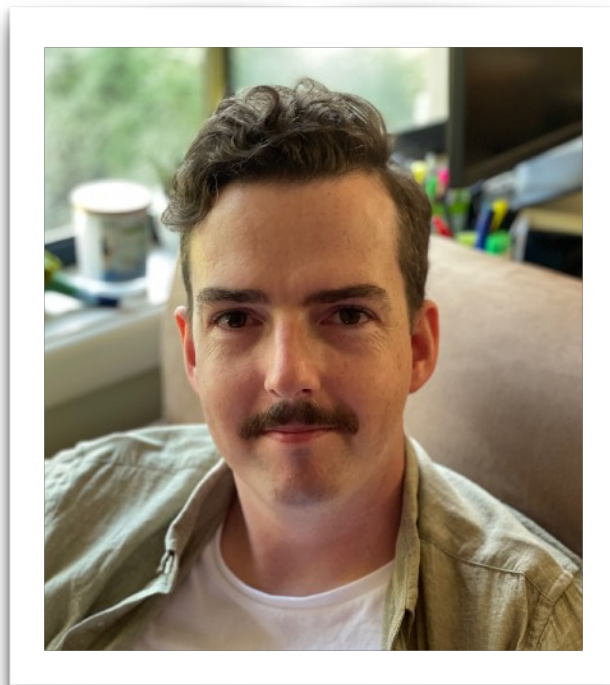
Since Independence, English has become one of the most recognisable symbols of cultural capital in India. It has tended to remain limited to the upper- and upper-middle-classes; the classes of people who form the most prominent section of live stand-up comedy audience. However, as online circulation of comedy grows, comedians poking fun at the BJP find themselves increasingly at odds with its supporters. The deliberate Hindi-English code-switching allows comedians to still do political jokes, while also protecting themselves from online abuse and threats to an extent.

This paper will present an analysis of jokes from online videos of four comedians: Neeti Palta, Punit Pania, Vir Das, and Kunal Kamra. Palta and Pania code-switch between Hindi and English, Kamra performs in Hindi, while Das performs in English. Primary data from my interviews with Palta and Pania, and secondary data from interviews of Kamra and Das available online, will also be presented to demonstrate how switching between languages in comedy is a conscious practice aimed at either according or delimiting accessibility to comedic intent.

Bionote

Suchi is a PhD student at RMIT University, Melbourne, researching stand-up comedy in India and its engagement with the political. She is creating her data through interviews with comedians, ethnographic study of live comedy shows, and textual analysis of comedic material. Born and raised in India, Suchi moved to Melbourne 17 years ago and has worked in professional roles in TAFE and tertiary education. In her other life in India, she worked in advertising, journalism, and public relations. She graduated from Monash University with a master's degree in Communication & Media Studies in 2018. Earlier in 1999, in India, she graduated from Jadavpur University, Kolkata, with a Master of Arts degree in Comparative Literature. She lives in suburban Melbourne with her husband and two children. Pronouns: she/her

Bradley J. Dixon, PhD Candidate, RMIT University, Cringe Comedy and the Suspension of Empathy



Abstract

Cringe comedy has been an ascendent form of comic media for the past two decades, testing viewers' ability to endure extreme levels of awkwardness and abjection. One popular mode of cringe comedy—practiced by the likes of Sacha Baron Cohen, Nathan Fielder, and Eric Andre—involves staging interactions between a comedian and real people who are not in on the joke. These encounters, which blend comedy with techniques borrowed from documentary and reality television, intensify the discomfort to such an extent that they walk a delicate line between humour and cruelty. Competing

theories of humour have attempted to explain how and why we laugh at the expense of others, as well as how we can find humour in subjects considered taboo or disruptive of social norms. Schadenfreude, comic license, superiority, and benign violation theory are all useful but inadequate concepts for considering the mechanism of humour in cringe comedy, which poses distinct challenges to how we think and talk about the ethics of humour. In cringe comedy, it is not necessarily the content of the joke that is problematic, but rather that the joke is at the expense of an unwitting mark, who may have done nothing to deserve the indignity of victimhood. For the reasonable viewer this would seem to preclude ethical enjoyment of such comedy—and yet, these cringe comedies remain a popular and respected form of comic media. In this paper I draw on the notion of the suspension of empathy to explore how these comedies cultivate an affective environment in which a viewer can laugh at an innocent person experiencing discomfort or being made to look like a fool. Additionally, I survey the assortment of visual and other cues cringe comedies use to signal to the viewer the ethical permissibility of laughter.

Bionote

Bradley J. Dixon is a writer and early-career researcher from Melbourne, Australia. He has served as an editor for the film journal *Senses of Cinema* and as a programmer for the Human Rights Arts & Film Festival and Melbourne International Film Festival. Currently he is a PhD candidate in the Screen & Sound Cultures research group at RMIT University, studying persona and practice in comedy media.

Fergus Edwards, English, University of Tasmania (UTAS), The Comedic Case for Performative Linguistics: Churchill and Stoppard



Abstract

Douglas Robinson's *Performative Linguistics* (2014) understands language as an iterated, ideosomatic, social practise. The theory builds upon foundational work by Ludwig Wittgenstein, J.L. Austin, and Paul Grice; and it stands in direct opposition to the many static, synchronic accounts of language that are implicitly derived from Ferdinand de Saussure's *Course in General Linguistics* (1916). None of these scholars is known for their sense of humour, none of these texts is known for its jokes. My paper will introduce

performative linguistics and argue that some of its strongest support is staged in comedies such as Caryl Churchill's *Blue Heart* (1997) and Tom Stoppard's *Dogg's Hamlet* (1974). Audiences can only appreciate the jokes in these plays because they comprehend the language being used—but the words of that language are, quite radically, failing to fulfil their standard Saussurean functions.

Churchill's tale of Derek the con man and his many proposed mothers has a text that is infiltrated by the words 'blue' and 'kettle'. The discrepancies multiply; everyday language disappears; words contract to individual letters; but still we follow along—and still we laugh at the rather dark comedy. Stoppard's story of a private school prizegiving has a host of characters speaking a language of English words that have different referents. A mixture of context, cadence, action and reaction slowly teach the audience this language of 'Dogg'—to the point where we laugh at puns that only exist because we have done so.

Sources

Churchill, Caryl. *Blue Heart*. Nick Hern Books, 2016.

Robinson, Douglas. *Performative Linguistics*. Routledge, 2014.

Saussure, Ferdinand de. *Course in General Linguistics*. Edited by Perry Meisel and Haun Saussy, translated by Wade Baskin, Columbia University Press, 2011.

Stoppard, Tom. 'Dogg's Hamlet.' *Tom Stoppard: Plays One*, Faber and Faber, 1996, pp. 139-174.

Bionote and message

My name is Fergus Edwards. I live on lutruwita (Tasmania) Aboriginal land, and I acknowledge, with deep respect, the traditional owners of this land, the palawa people. I pay my respects to elders past and present, to the many Aboriginal people that did not make elder status, and to the Tasmanian Aboriginal community that continues to care for Country.

In Tasmania, academic conferences are like buses. We had one once and people won't stop going on about it; but if you ever want to see one again then you have to go to the mainland. Two years ago I was a newly confirmed PhD candidate at the University of Tasmania, and the very first chance I had to attend an academic conference was the AHSN Conference 2022 held in Hobart. I'm delighted to be able to attend the AHSN Conference 2024 in Brisbane as a proud recipient of a Student Scholarship Award.

My research at UTAS is about the plays of Tom Stoppard and their links to the philosophy of Ludwig Wittgenstein, and I'll be submitting my thesis in 2024. I was an Andrew B. Mellon Fellow at the University of Texas at Austin in 2023, where I was able to spend most of my waking hours immersed in the Stoppard archive at the Harry Ransom Center. I've published papers in *Philosophy and Literature* and *Philosophy Now*, I'm fulfilling a commission for *Modernist Studies*, and I have a paper under review at *Modern Drama*. I also have the pleasure of talking to ABC Hobart about literature every month.

Wittgenstein suggested to Norman Malcolm that a 'serious and good philosophical work could be written that would consist entirely of jokes,' and my interest in humour studies is the result of a deep interest in the performative aspects of language. Laughter provides an immediate and unintermediated signal that an audience has shifted its understanding of a text from one context to another. As such it can help us understand when, why, and how the audience makes that transition, as it creates the possibility of iterated feedback amongst the initial receivers of the performance. Playwrights who insist that their audiences are intellectually engaged with their comedies—not only, but also, their jokes—are perhaps those that have come closest to fulfilling Wittgenstein's suggestion. Churchill, Havel, and Stoppard are among those that fall into this class.

I hold an MA (Oxon.) in Politics, Philosophy and Economics from Oxford University, and an MA (Open) in English from the Open University. My commitment to Conference Organising Committees extends to both the Australasian Modernist Studies Network (AMSN) Conference 2024, and the Association for the Study of Australian Literature (ASAL) Conference 2022.

I returned to academic work after a sixteen-year career in investment banking, which took me to Hong Kong, London, New York, Paris, and Singapore and lots of other places besides. I also have a passion for running long distances in remote places - ultramarathons on every continent, and some of the sport's iconic races: the 246km Spartathlon from Athens to Sparta, the 170km UTMB around Mont Blanc, the 167km UTMK around Mount Kosciuszko, and the could-have-been-world-famous-but-no-longer-existent 167km Tassie Trail Fest held around and around and around Trevallyn National Park, just up the road in Launceston.

Stephanie Foxton, Applied Linguistics, Te Herenga Waka–Victoria University of Wellington, 'Sometimes it's just easier to join in': Gender and Joking in a Sports Organisation



Abstract

Humour has continually been recognised by workplace discourse analysts as a key discursive tool in the construction and maintenance of workplace relationships (Kim & Plester, 2014), and especially for negotiating community boundaries (Vine et al., 2009). Within the range of types of humour, some, like banter, have a dual function to both include and exclude; in-group members use it to signal and maintain their insider identity, while outsiders are kept at the fringes due to a lack of knowledge, not fully understanding how to interpret humorous interactions (see also Marra, 2022). Using audio-visual

recordings of authentic interactional data collected from a work team within a regional sports organisation, this paper examines how women in a male-dominated workplace resist exclusionary practices through the use of humour.

Previous research indicates that jocular abuse and banter is often considered an inevitable part of male-dominated workplaces (Wright, 2016). It is therefore unsurprising that banter forms an integral part of the linguistic repertoire established by group members within the data. These community norms create a set of conditions for identity construction that draw on heteronormative and masculine styles, most notably in the role, content, and use of humour. Analysis of the dataset suggest that banter (and other forms of jocular abuse) is used by women to maintain an in-group membership; participation in the banter allows women within the team to maintain their insider identity whilst also sustaining and challenging existing gender discourses. I argue that women in the group are in a double bind. Banter is used to gain acceptance into the in-group at the expense of reinforcing normative discourses of masculinity which are frequently, and often negatively, associated with these types of organisations.

Bionote

Stephanie Foxton (she/her) is a PhD candidate studying Applied Linguistics within Te Kura Tātari Reo–School of Linguistics and Applied Language Studies at Te Herenga Waka–Victoria University of Wellington. Stephanie’s work crosses the areas of workplace discourse analysis; language, gender, and sexuality; and the growing field of sports linguistics. Her research aims to examine the (re)negotiation of gender, sex, and sexual identities within sports organisations. Her PhD project is inspired by her own experiences as a queer woman in sport and Stephanie intends to use her findings as catalyst for change, to improve the experiences of women and LGBTQIA+ sportspeople.

Nicholas Hugman, The University of Queensland, Humorous Narratives as Relational Practice in a Football Team



Abstract

Humorous narratives, characterised as an extended period of talk in which a participant relays an event containing humorous incongruity (Archakis & Tsakona, 2012), are a pervasive interactional practice. The typical structure of a humorous narrative comprises asymmetrical access to the conversational floor, wherein one participant relays the narrative, while the others provide minimal feedback, typically in the form of continuers, which display the recipient's attention and understanding (Stivers, 2008).

This asymmetry in conversational turns poses a significant challenge for interactional achievement approaches to communication (e.g. Arundale, 2020), which view phenomena as non-additive processes dynamically constructed in interaction. Given that there is little space to negotiate these phenomena during the narrative proper, how do participants employ narratives to interactionally enact different processes? This issue is arguably exacerbated in the case of interpersonal relationships, given that they are fundamentally dyadic, interactional affairs (Arundale, 2021).

In this study, using interactional data collected using ethnographic methods from an amateur football team, I document two practices by which participants overcome the difficulty posed by the functional pressures of humorous narratives to engender interpersonal relationships. Using Arundale's (2020) Face-Constituting Theory (FCT), which foregrounds the dialectically linked relational qualities of connection and separation, I demonstrate how participants use both the post-narrative space, exploiting the symmetrical turn-taking that it offers, and responding stories (Sacks, 1992), to enact relationships.

The analysis demonstrates that, via these two distinct practices, participants manipulate the humorous incongruity present in the narrative to engender varying degrees of connection and separation. They construct connection by aligning with events in the narrative as humorously incongruous, while concurrently indexing separation by competitively negotiating different aspects of the incongruity. I conclude by considering the applicability of the analysis to other areas of humorous narratives so far unexplored.

References

- Archakis, A., & Tsakona, V. (2012). *The narrative construction of identities in critical education*. London: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Arundale, R. B. (2020). *Communicating & relating: Constituting face in everyday interacting*. Oxford University Press. <https://doi.org/10.1093/oso/9780190210199.001.0001>
- Arundale, R. B. (2021). Relationships and relating. In M. Haugh, D. n. Z. Kádár & M. Terkourafi (Eds.), *The Cambridge handbook of sociopragmatics* (pp. 272-292). Cambridge University Press. <https://doi.org/10.1017/9781108954105>.
- Sacks, H. (1992). *Lectures on conversation, Volume I*. Oxford: Blackwell.
- Stivers, T. (2008). Stance, alignment, and affiliation during storytelling: When nodding is a token of affiliation. *Research on Language & Social Interaction*, 41(1), 31-57.

Bionote

I am a current PhD student at the University of Queensland, researching different ways that interactional humour can be conceptualised, and the consequences that these different conceptualisations might have for the study of humour in interaction. I did my Masters at Victoria University of Wellington, where I also investigated humour in interaction, but focused more on its relationship with identity processes.

An additional Scholarship was won by a post-graduate student who unfortunately had to decline taking it up, owing to her inability to attend and present:

Megan Dykes, Victoria University of Wellington, 'Verbal Irony on the Internet: The Type of Irony the Internet Loves'

Eds: Congratulations to all Scholarship Winners for AHSN2024! There will be an awards ceremony during the closing session of the Conference on Friday 9 February 2024.

Save the Date!

Public Lecture in Sydney by Visiting Scholar in Humour Studies

Speaker: UNSW Visiting Professor Delia Chiaro, University of Bologna (SITLEC, Forli), former President of ISHS, Keynote speaker for AHSN2024

Topic: Translation and Humour (food, disgust, humour, language, brown Humour, etc)

Host: Dr Ludmila Stern, UNSW

Date: Wednesday 15th February

More information will be made available to the AHSN list in the New Year.

Announcement and Call for Reviewers

Special Article Collection: Humour as a Human Right

Open Library of Humanities Journal

Birkbeck College, University of London, UK

We are pleased to announce the acceptance of a special collection titled 'Humour as a Human Right' for a Diamond Open Access Journal Publication. This digital collection, edited by Dr Benjamin Nickl from The University of Sydney's Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Department of Comparative Literature, Culture, and Translation Studies, and Dr Rodney Taveira from The United States Studies Centre at the University of Sydney, is a double-blind peer-reviewed, open-ended journal platform and will explore the multifaceted role of humour in expressing, challenging, and negotiating human rights with high-quality research articles published on a rolling basis: <https://www.openlibhums.org/>

The title of this special collection journal encapsulates the thought-provoking idea that humour, often seen as a mere form of entertainment, can be a powerful tool for asserting individual and collective rights, fostering resilience, and challenging societal norms. Conversely, it can also violate and hinder individual and collective rights and uphold conditions of state oppression. The journal collection underscores the idea that the ability to express oneself through humour, to laugh, and to provoke laughter, is an essential aspect of human dignity and freedom, thus framing it as a fundamental human right.

The editors are now inviting expressions of interest from potential reviewers who would like to contribute blind peer reviews to the first collection of in-progress articles that emerged from this exciting project and that will be published in small batches over the course of 2024 following the highly successful AHSN2023 conference on that theme, held at The University of Sydney in February 2023.

If you are interested in reviewing articles in this collection, please send an email to the editors (benjamin.nickl@sydney.edu.au and rodney.taveira@sydney.edu.au), attaching a short bionote if possible. In your bionote, please detail the areas or research questions you feel confident to review. This is a unique opportunity to contribute to a deeper examination of how humour interacts with various social, political, and ethical aspects, humanities knowledge frameworks, and applications of human rights discourse and to address the vital question: how do we in the humanities reach beyond our fields of expertise?

We look forward to your contributions of research expertise to this special collection and welcome potential collaborations with other humour studies research platforms and journals. Please note that we are going to welcome expressions of interest for new articles on a rolling basis starting in 2024. One area of research focus will include articles centred on human rights and humour during times of war in contemporary settings.

Many thanks,
Rodney Taveira and Ben Nickl

Call for Papers, Conference on Humour, Satire and Play in History, Pedagogy and Therapy

University of Northampton, Waterside Campus, UK

27-28 June 2024

Keynote speakers:

- BAFTA award winning songwriter for BBC's Horrible Histories, comic, broadcaster, and novelist Dave Cohen www.davecohen.org.uk
- Dr Sharon Lockyer, Founding Director of the Centre for Comedy Studies Research (CCSR) and Associate Dean for Equality and Diversity, Brunel University www.brunel.ac.uk/people/sharon-lockyer

Humour, satire and play are central features of human life, past and present. For historians, exploring humour can offer a window into the political, social, and cultural dynamics of previous times. Humour is underpinned by many spoken and unspoken cultural norms, values and ideals, and what is deemed 'funny' has changed dramatically in differing historical contexts. The roles played by humour are also diverse and it has been used to speak truth to power, to bring pleasure and enjoyment to life and to develop senses of community and wellbeing.

This two-day conference aims to interrogate the many uses of humour, and related topics of satire and play, both in the past and in the contemporary world.

To what degree has humour shaped history? In what ways have forms of humour provided people with a sense of agency and identity? Can humour be both empowering and disempowering? How has humour changed across time? Does humour allow us to understand the human life cycle, from childhood to old age?

Moreover, humour can be an important teaching and even therapeutic tool. What are the benefits and challenges of using humour in teaching contexts? How can aspects of humour and play be incorporated into curricula, and what issues does this pose to issues of equality, diversity and inclusion? Can humour be an exclusionary teaching practice?

Finally, what is the role of history and humour beyond teaching and learning contexts? How might historical cultures of humour and play be used in caring and therapeutic contexts?

We invite contributions in the form of 20-minute papers and proposals for 90-minute panels.

We also welcome other formats based on 20-minute and 90-minute timeframes, such as interviews, performances and dramatizations, and workshop sessions.

Potential themes for papers and presentations may include:

- The history of humour, comedy and political satire
- Cultures of humour and play
- Humour and the lifecycle
- Humour as a means to providing agency and identity
- Humour as a form of power and control
- Racism, antiracism and humour
- The political value of humour
- Cultures of satire, irony
- Popular culture and humour
- The history of emotions and humour
- Humour and the body
- Material culture and humour
- Gender, ethnicity and class in humour
- Disability and humour
- LGBTQ+ history and humour
- Online humour and historical themes
- The value of humour in teaching and learning contexts
- Humour as a means to bring history 'alive'
- The place of humour in therapy and care settings

We welcome submissions from researchers at all career stages, from postgraduate students to research professors. We are also especially keen to receive presentation proposal from professionals such as teachers, healthcare workers and independent educators and writers.

Please submit abstracts to Siobhan Hyland: Siobhan.hyland@northampton.ac.uk by 31 January 2024.

If you have any questions or queries about potential submissions, please contact the conveners Professor Mark Rothery (mark.rothery@northampton.ac.uk) and Professor Paul Jackson (paul.jackson@northampton.ac.uk)

Call for papers: 2nd International Conference on Verbal Humor

(Short Title: CIHV)

Date: 16-Oct-2024 - 18-Oct-2024

Location: University of Alicante, Spain

Contact person: Esther Linares Bernabéu

Meeting email: eslinares93@gmail.com

Website: <https://griale.dfelg.ua.es/cihv2024/>

The **2nd International Conference on Verbal Humor (#CIHV2024)** will take place at the University of Alicante (Spain) from October 16 to 18, 2024. Sponsored by GRIALE and the research projects PID2019-104980GB-I00 “Interpersonal Humor in Spanish. Oral, written, and technological genres” (MCIN/AEI//10.13039/501100011033) and PROMETEO/2021/079 “Pragmatic labeling for an observatory of identity of women and men through humor. The platform Observahumor.com” (Consellería de Innovación, Universidades, Ciencia y Sociedad Digital. Generalitat Valenciana), it is a magnificent opportunity to bring together international researchers of the highest level, focusing on verbal humor and its idiosyncrasy from diverse perspectives. Moreover, it is an excellent opportunity to share knowledge about the latest advances in linguistic humor and to create new research networks among the various attendees or promote new ones.

Plenary speakers

Geert Brône (KU Leuven)

Béatrice Priego-Valverde (Aix-Marseille University)

Jan Chovanec (Masaryk University)

We welcome original papers, written either Spanish or English. Topics for presentations may include, but are not exclusively limited to, the following ones (please, select one of them):

Panel 1. Humor, gender and identity (Conveners: Leonor Ruiz Gurillo Ien & Esther Linares Bernabéu)

Panel 2. Humor, multimodalidad y discursos digitales (Conveners: Francisco Yus & Ana María Mancera)

Panel 3. Humour, acquisition and language learning (Conveners: Larissa Timofeeva Timofeev & Juan Luis Jiménez)

Panel 4. Humor and text genres (Convener: José Joaquín Martínez Egido)

Panel 5. Humor and linguistic corpora (Conveners: Chelo Vargas & Elvira Manero)

Panel 6. Humor and interaction (Convener: G. Angela Mura)

Panel 7. Humor and (im)politeness (Convener: M. Belén Alvarado Ortega)

The abstract should not exceed 350 words (excluding references).

Each paper will be presented in a 20-minute time slot, with an additional 10 minutes allocated for discussion and questions.

Proposals are due by 31 March 2024

Notification of acceptance: before 15 May 2024

Registration and Submission of Proposals

This is the registration link to submit your proposal: <https://forms.gle/NGaHbnt2dEXHhK3x5>

After the acceptance of your proposal, you can register on the website: <https://griale.dfelg.ua.es/cihv2024/inscripcion/>

Payment is open until 30 June 2024

The registration fees include the attendance and the participation at the conference, the conference pack: coffee breaks and lunches: Fees: 180 €

If you wish to attend the conference dinner, when you pick up your participant badge from the registration desk, you will have to pay 50 € in cash.

Fees for students: 100 €

If you wish to attend the conference dinner, when you pick up your participant badge from the registration desk, you will have to pay 50 € in cash.

Payment after 30 June 2024:

The registration fees include the attendance and the participation at the conference, the conference pack: coffee breaks and lunches. Fees: 180 €

If you wish to attend the conference dinner, when you pick up your participant badge from the registration desk, you will have to pay 50 € in cash.

Fees for students: 120 €

If you wish to attend the conference dinner, when you pick up your participant badge from the registration desk, you will have to pay 50 € in cash. Call for Contributions to Special Journal Issue on

Humor Use in Interpersonal Relationships

A special issue of [Behavioral Sciences](#) (ISSN 2076-328X), belonging to the section “[Social Psychology](#)”.

Deadline for manuscript submissions: 30 April 2024

Special Issue Guest Editors

Prof. Dr. Nathan Miczo, Department of Communication, Western Illinois University, Macomb, IL 61455, USA. Interests: humor; memorable messages; interpersonal aspects of health and illness; supportive communication

Prof. Dr. John Meyer, Communication Studies, University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg, MS 39406, USA. Interests: organizational communication; humor in communication

Special Issue Information

Dear Colleagues,

Humor contributes much to the quality of our interpersonal relationships. It has, accordingly, been studied in relation to such phenomena as attraction, persuasion, coping, and support. Nevertheless, humor research in the area of interpersonal communication has frequently lacked a strong theoretical underpinning. In terms of message production, expression, and reception, however, humorous messages ought to have properties in common with other message forms (e.g., self-disclosure, supportive communication). Therefore, humor should be amenable to examination from existent theories of interpersonal communication. For example, humor likely plays a role in such areas as managing identity gaps, the revelation of information about the self, relationship uncertainty, appraisals, and the manner in which relationships develop. The goal of this Special Issue is to bring together research on the use of various kinds of humorous messages and theories of interpersonal processes in order to shed light on both phenomena.

Prof. Dr. Nathan Miczo

Prof. Dr. John Meyer

Guest Editors

Manuscript Submission Information

Manuscripts should be submitted online at www.mdpi.com by [registering](#) and [logging in to this website](#). Once you are registered, [click here to go to the submission form](#). Manuscripts can be submitted until the deadline. All submissions that pass pre-check are peer-reviewed. Accepted papers will be published continuously in the journal (as soon as accepted) and will be listed together on the special issue website. Research articles, review articles as well as short communications are invited. For planned papers, a title and short abstract (about 100 words) can be sent to the Editorial Office for announcement on this website.

Submitted manuscripts should not have been published previously, nor be under consideration for publication elsewhere (except conference proceedings papers). All manuscripts are thoroughly refereed through a single-blind peer-review process. A guide for authors and other relevant information for submission of manuscripts is available on the [Instructions for Authors](#) page. [Behavioral Sciences](#) is an international peer-reviewed open access monthly journal published by MDPI.

Please visit the [Instructions for Authors](#) page before submitting a manuscript. The [Article Processing Charge \(APC\)](#) for publication in this [open access](#) journal is 2200 CHF (Swiss Francs). Submitted papers should be well formatted and use good English. Authors may use MDPI's [English editing service](#) prior to publication or during author revisions.

Keywords

- humor
- interpersonal communication
- relational humor
- humor functions
- teasing
- embarrassment and humor
- empathetic humor
- alienation and humor

This special issue is now open for submission.

CFP available at: https://www.mdpi.com/journal/behavsci/special_issues/84FY6786BP

Members' New Publications

Kerry Mullan. 2023. 10 Humour and creativity in a family of strangers on Facebook. In *Interactional Humor: Multimodal Design and Negotiation*, ed. Béatrice Priego-Valverde. 289-318. Berlin/Boston: De Gruyter Mouton. <https://doi.org/10.1515/9783110983128-011>

Report on AHSN-sponsored Panel on Humour and Politics

**2023 Conference of the Australian and New Zealand American Studies Association
1-3 December 2023, The University of Sydney**

Congratulations to the three AHSN members who recently combined to present a well-attended panel on issues in comedy and politics affecting Australia, India and the US at the 2023 ANZASA Conference held at The University of Sydney.

The Panel was composed as follows:

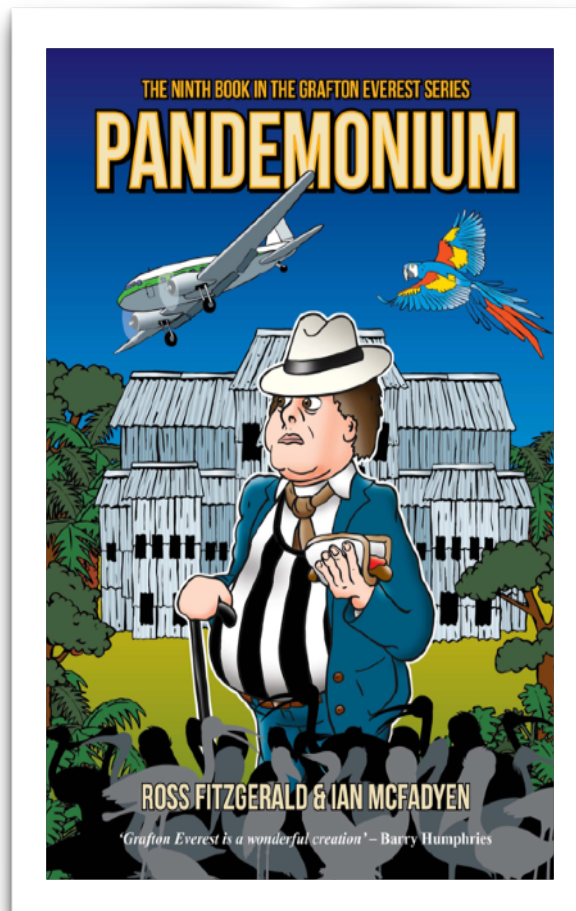
Panel 10: 'Laughing Matters: The Politics of Comedy' (sponsored by the Australasian Humour Studies Network)

- Rodney Taveira (Sydney): 'Community deformation: Racial cringe and American liberalism'
 - Mark Rolfe (UNSW): 'Humour & the reinforcement of partisan identity in the United States'
 - Suchi Chowdhury (RMIT): 'Spectacular ties: Performing connections with the US and Australia, Modi-style'
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Announcing the Latest in Australian Political Satire

By Two Friends of AHSN

Ross Fitzgerald and Ian McFadyen. 2023. *Pandemonium: A Grafton Everest Novel*. Melbourne: Hybrid Publishers.



Publisher's description and praise comments

Grafton Everest, formerly Doctor, Professor, Senator Everest and His Honour the First President of the IRA (the Inclusive Republic of Australia), has now reached the asymptote of his inexplicable ascent by being appointed, once again through no ability, effort or desire of his own, to the position of Secretary-General of the United Nations.

In this, the ninth book of the Grafton Everest series, our hapless hero reaches the culmination of his haphazard career. Despite Grafton's fervent hope that it will be a purely honorary position, he finds himself forced to actively head an organisation not only made ineffective by its Byzantine organisation but threatened by a deadly conspiracy within its own ranks.

'This is the best Grafton Everest satire yet.' -- Ken Spillman

<https://thesydneyinstitute.com.au/blog/grafton-everest-on-top-of-the-united-nations-world/>

'Pandemonium is a work of comic brilliance, a perfect consummation of the uproarious Grafton Everest series' – Nigel Marsh, author of *Smart, Stupid & Sixty*

About the authors:

Ross Fitzgerald AM is Emeritus Professor of History & Politics at Griffith University. He is the author or co-author of forty-five books, including a memoir *Fifty Years Sober: An Alcoholic's Journey*. He lives in Redfern, Sydney.



Ian McFadyen is a multi-award winning writer, actor and television producer who has created a number of successful television series, books and plays. He has collaborated with Ross Fitzgerald to write the previous Grafton Everest novels, *Going Out Backwards*, *The Dizzying Heights*, and *The Lowest Depths*. He lives in Queensland.

They were keynote speakers at AHSN2022, Hobart, Tasmania



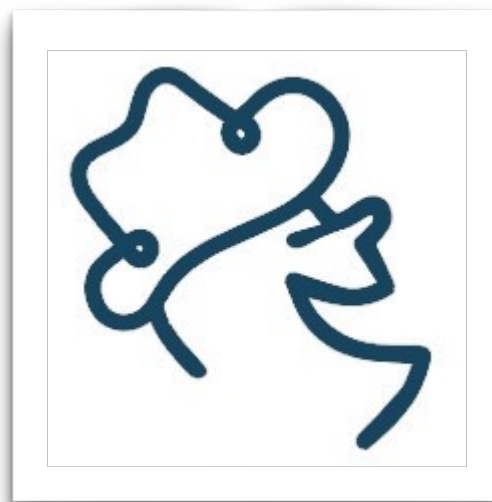
Call for Papers 2024 ISHS/HR Conference

Online, April 19-21, 2024

The 34th ISHS Conference will be held online from April 19 to 21, in conjunction with the 2024 Humor Research Conference, and will continue with a weekly webinar series through June. Christian Hempelmann and Salvatore Attardo (Texas A&M University -- Commerce) will host the April Conference with a call for papers deadline of January 31, 2024. The website for the joint ISHS/HR Conference is now open (from December 8, 2023), with details about submissions and registration. For additional information about the April Conference, visit the ISHS/HR website at <https://www.tamuc.edu/humor>

<https://inside.tamuc.edu/academics/colleges/humanitiesSocialSciencesArts/departments/literatureLanguages/newsandevents/nethrc/default.aspx?origin=shorturl-humor>

2024 ISHS CONFERENCE



The 2024 Conference of the International Society for Humor Studies (ISHS 34) will be hosted online by Texas A&M University-Commerce, Texas, from April 19-21, concurrently with the 14th Humor Research Conference (HRC 14), hosted annually by TAMUC since 2011. There will be no in person events.



Important Dates/Deadlines

- Registration / abstracts open: January 2, 2024
 - Submission deadline: February 15, 2024
 - Acceptance Notification: March 15, 2024
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To join the ISHS and receive membership benefits, visit the ISHS website at: <https://humorstudies.org/index.htm>

Benefits besides online and hard copy access to the respected research journal, HUMOR: International Journal of Humor Research, include:

- Joining a new ListServ (hosted by Working with Moira Marsh at Indiana University), for members to post and share news and special events. This listserv has been specifically created to enable members to communicate with each other, exchange ideas, and share information so that we can build a larger community and identity. Members can submit listserv items to ishs-l@list.indiana.edu.
- ISHS Online Research Forum, established for members to post announcements and share information with each other. The ISHS Forum also contains separate forums for each of our specialist interest groups. ISHS members can register for the Forum and participate in the Specialist Interest Groups by going online to <https://humorstudies.org/Forum>. As part of forum registration, members can create their own forum name/handle and password, but must register with their ISHS e-mail to verify that they are an active ISHS member. Only verified ISHS members can receive an active forum account.
- Specialist Interest Groups, the Society is pleased to announce the addition of nine specialist interest groups (SIGs), each organized to advance and raise the profiles of research areas within humor studies. These interest groups along with their group leaders (in parentheses) are as follows:
 - Humor and AI (Tristan Miller, Christian Hempelmann, & Julia Rayz)
 - Humor and the Global South (Joao Capelotti, Diego Hoefel, & Rujuta Date)
 - Humor and Religion (Nicole Graham & Lina Liederman)
 - Humor, Free Speech, and the Law (Alberto Godioli & Laura Little)
 - Online Humor (Lissi Laineste & Anastasiya Fiodotava)
 - Multimodal and Interactional Humor (Elisa Gironzetti & Beatrice Priego-Valverde)
 - Business and Media (David McGee & Jon Sandling)
 - Performing Comedy (Craig Draheim & Alexander Sparrow)
 - Screen Comedy (William Costanzo & Terry Lindvall)
 - Humor and Translation (Chiara Bucaria & Anthony Mitzel)

These interest groups all aim to promote collaboration among scholars and professionals on humor research in their field of specialization. Full descriptions of these interest groups along with contact links are available on the ISHS website at <https://humorstudies.org>. ISHS members can join the interest groups of their choosing by contacting the SIG organizers or by registering in the newly created ISHS Research Forum at <https://humorstudies.org/Forum>. Members can propose additional Specialist Interest Groups. For information on how to propose a SIG, contact the ISHS Executive Secretary at humorstudies@outlook.com.

The Humour Studies Digest

The Australasian Humour Studies Network (AHSN)

‘We put the “U” back into “HUMOUR”!’

Send your Digest Submissions to our veteran Co-Editor Jessica at Jessica.davis@sydney.edu.au

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