



Australasian Humour Studies Network

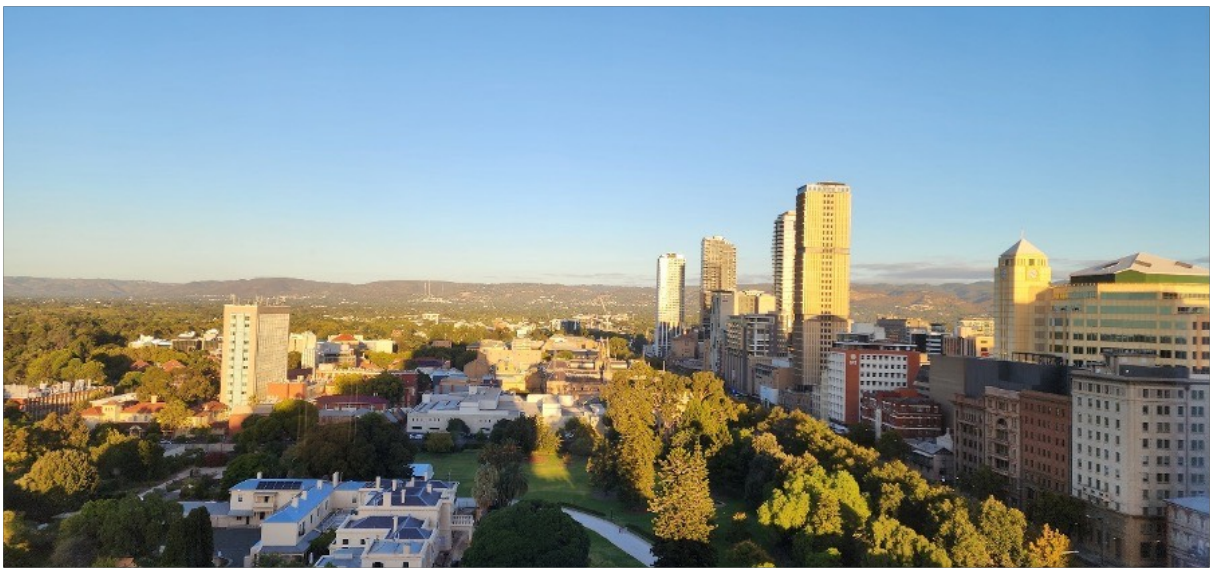


AHSN Digest – March 2025

AHSN2025 Conference Report

The 31st AHSN Annual Conference, convened by the wonderful organising committee at Flinders University, Adelaide, was just perfect. Seriously, no irony here.

A conference highlight for me would probably be... hmm, navigating the lift at Festival Tower? Actually, it is difficult for me to pick one conference highlight, because for me, every day was a highlight. Cliché, but true.



The view from the perfectly located Festival Tower.

As a first-time attendee/presenter at the AHSN Conference and an early career researcher, I was quite nervous about presenting my still-developing research in front of many well-established scholars from diverse fields. In hindsight, my worries might have been unnecessary. I cannot think of a better or more supportive environment for researchers, especially early career researchers, to share and discuss their work, despite disciplinary differences. I have gained so many insights from the delegates, not just from the Q&A session during my presentation, but also from others' presentations, the panels, the keynotes, and of course, the chats during morning/afternoon tea and lunch. It was such a pleasure to be able to meet scholars with different specialisations from all over the world, and learn about humour from their perspectives.

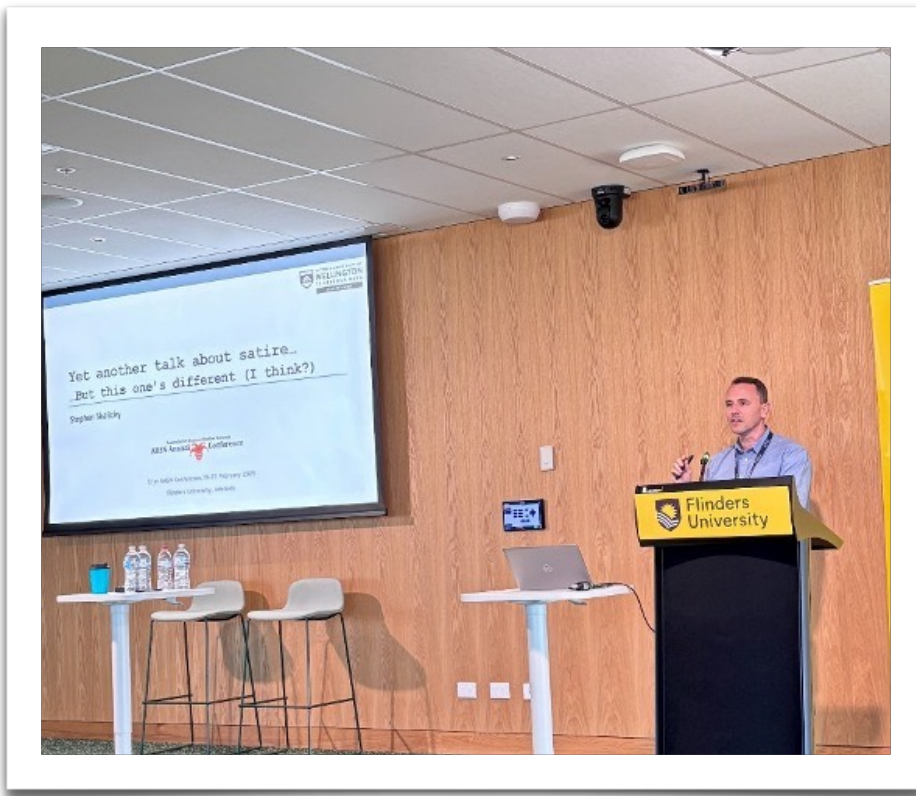
Every single day of the conference was packed with engaging talks by delegates from a wide range of disciplines, from which I have learnt so much. This conference featured such a diverse exploration in humour, ranging from conversational humour in sports and intercultural conversations to satire in politics, from characterisation in comedy to comedy in gaming, from cartooning to classic literature. I truly enjoyed being introduced to topics that are outside of my expertise, such as Indonesian comedy, memes in Ukraine, cartooning in Palestine, stand-up in Australia, just to name a few. The variety of presentations at the conference showed me what humour is all about – it is fun and laughter, but it is much more than that. Humour is social, political, and powerful. It is definitely an eye-opener for me. Again, cliché, but true.

Although I was unable to fully grasp everything from everyone, I was inspired to see how, despite different methodologies and theoretical backgrounds, humour researchers can still come together and share our knowledge with one another. One of the most memorable takeaways from the conference for me has to be that we do not have to agree on everything, but we can discuss our differences and agree to disagree.

During our last morning tea, one of the delegates asked me which of the talks was my favourite. I replied, “Hmm, Stephen’s keynote”, just as any good supervisee would (*wink wink*). While one (i.e., Stephen) may say I was *just* being diplomatic, it was indeed one of my favourites. As one of the “prefix-linguists”, whatever that means, I was rather bounded to the “experimental research” box. Even though I was aware that every researcher has their own approach, I don’t think I have made sufficient effort to learn about others’ “what”, “why” and “how”. Stephen’s keynote was a good reminder for me, and possibly all of us, that we need to explore one another’s approach. Sometimes things may be beyond our comprehension, but it is still a valuable practice for us to consider how others are approaching the same topic that we all hold dear. In fact, I think that the AHSN conference is exactly what it should be. The two panels, “*Evolutions in humour studies: A Conversation between early career humour scholars*” and “*Blatherin’ about blather: An interdisciplinary conversation about comic blather*” superbly showcased how different fields of studies can just come together and discuss how we see things similarly/differently.



An HDR/ECR panel capturing the breadth and depth of humour studies research.



Stephen's amazing (and different!) keynote about satire

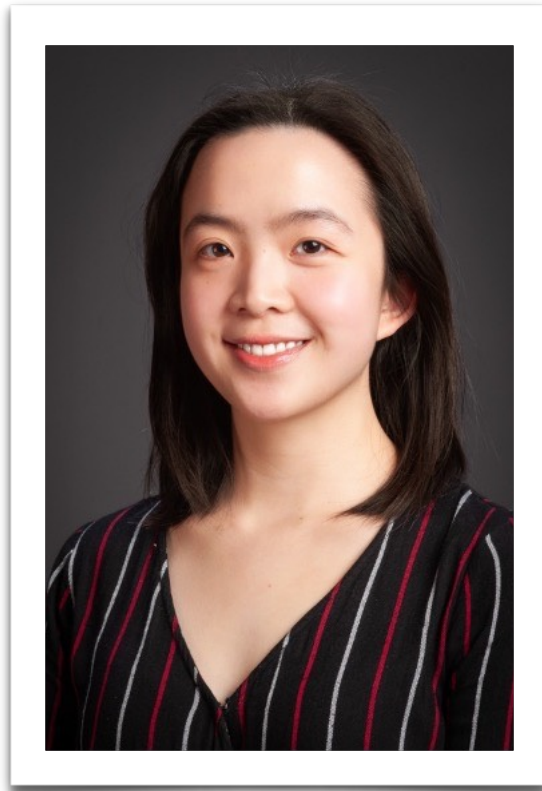
I was told that this report didn't have to be all rose-coloured, so I'd say my one complaint here – too many interesting talks to go to, too little time to explore Adelaide! Though, it was a trade-off that I was more than willing to accept, and I did do a little excursion at the Botanic Garden during my last day at Adelaide. Whilst I enjoyed the beautiful blown glass by Chihuly at the garden, I also, for the first time in my life, saw SO MANY bats!!! But I guess that's *just* normal...? Rest assured, there are no bats at the Botanic Garden here in Wellington (where we will be blathering about *Difficult Conversations* next year!).



A wonderful thank-you to the organising committee! (L-R: Alex, Robert, Payton, Rebecca, Herman).

Needless to say, and I'm sure as many of you will agree, this year's AHSN conference was a resounding success. Thank you, the organising committee at Flinders, for such an outstanding conference, and for setting such a high bar for the committee next year! And thank you AHSN for bringing all of us together. It is my honour to be part of this network and to connect with you all. I'm already looking forward to seeing hopefully every one of you again here in Welly in 2026! Until then, best wishes and the warmest virtual hugs to everybody.

– Lydia Chan



Nok Chin Lydia Chan is a PhD candidate in Applied Linguistics at Te Herenga Waka – Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand. She holds an M.A. in English (Language Science with a specialization in English Linguistics) from Stockholm University, Sweden, and a B.A. in English with minor in Spanish from The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong. Her research interests include Figurative Language, Verbal Irony, Formulaic Language, Cognitive Linguistics, Psycholinguistics, Corpus Linguistics, and Bi/Multilingualism. Her PhD dissertation aims to explore human cognition involved in understanding and conveying irony by integrating cognitive linguistic, computational, and statistical methods.

Conference Highlights



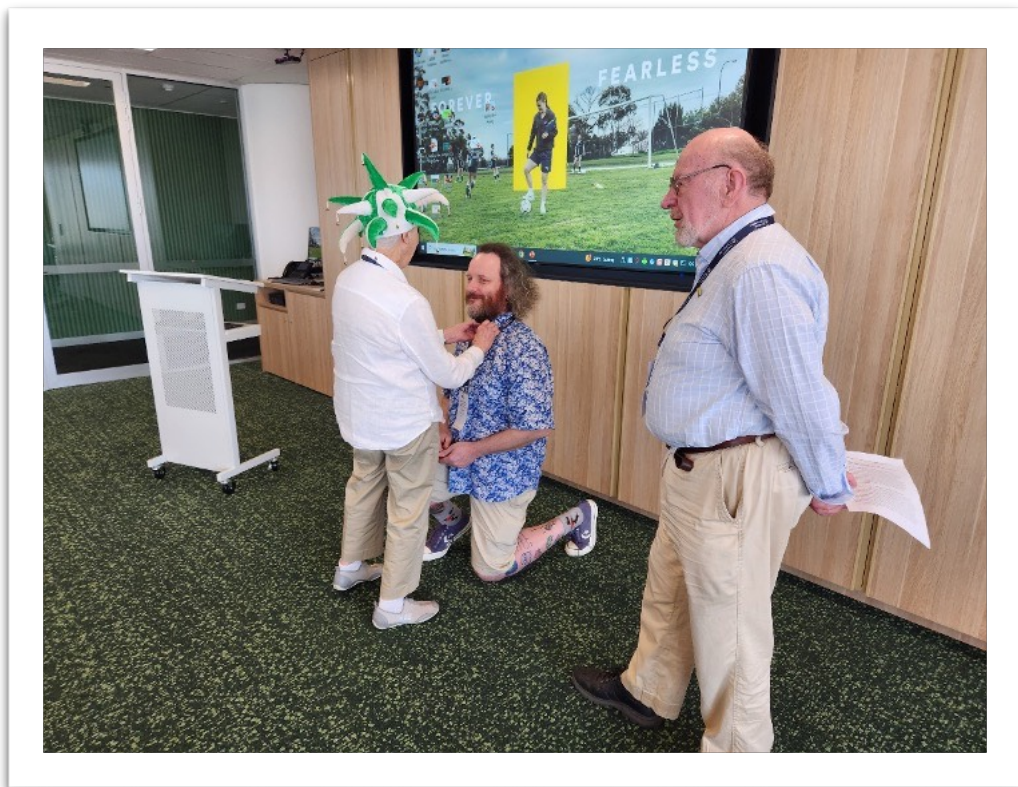
A very well organised group photo – almost like we're back at school!



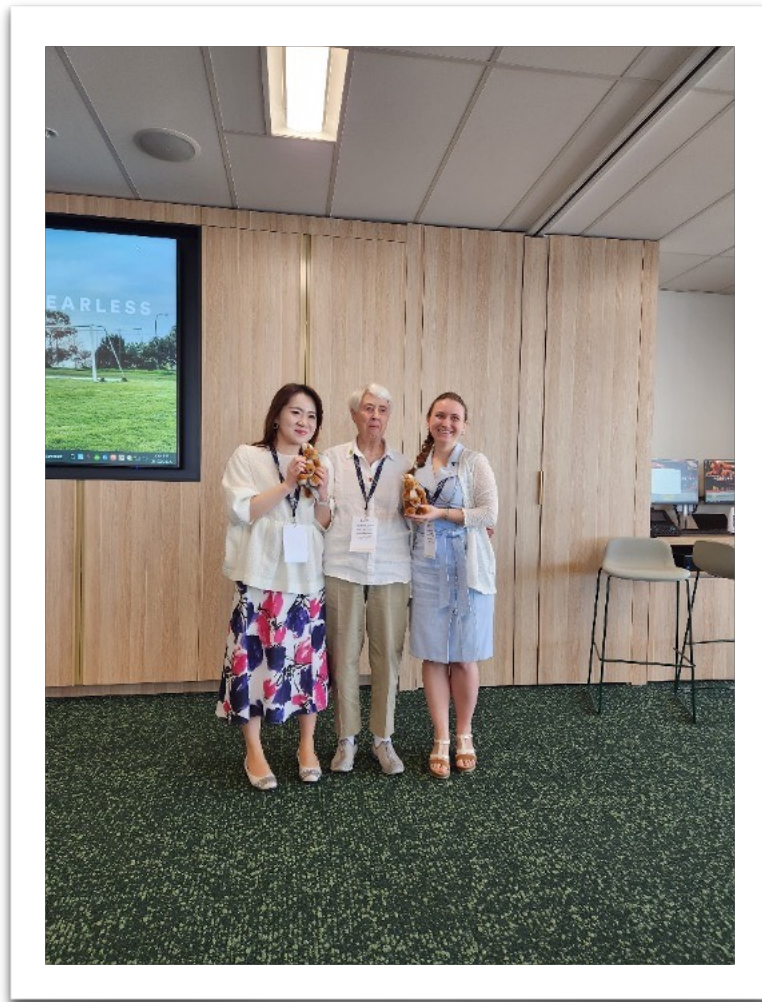
The first keynote address by Ronald Stewart about Japanese political cartooning.



David Rawlings (right), one of the two newly inducted Jess-ter, with senior Jess-ter, Angus McLachlan



Will Noonan (kneeling) being inducted by Founding Jess-ter Jessica Milner Davis, with senior Jess-ter Bruce Findlay



Farewell good wishes for two of our international delegates, Marina Hamanaka from Tokyo (left) and Sofiiia Fedzhora from Kyiv (right)

Message from the Chair of the AHSN Board

The annual AHSN conference is always one of the highlights of my year, and this year was no exception. Delegates received a very warm welcome at Flinders University in Adelaide and were treated to two and a half days of exceptional organisation, two wonderful keynotes, a wide range of excellent presentations and two thought-provoking plenary panels. Our thanks and congratulations go to the AHSN 2025 convenors Robert Phiddian, Alex Cothren and Rebecca Carpenter-Mew, who organised the conference and put together a fantastic program. The collegiality and humour enjoyed by all was a wonderful way to start the (Australasian) academic year! We were particularly delighted to be able to welcome delegates from Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, The University of Tokyo, and the University of Burgundy in Dijon, France. See below for a report and some photos from the conference.

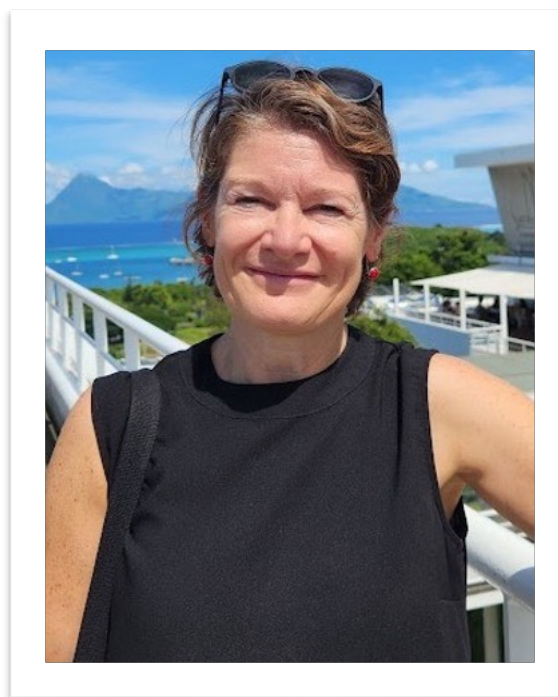
This conference also marked ten years of my involvement with the AHSN, taking me back to my very first AHSN conference, organised by Flinders University in 2015 as it happens, just weeks after the horrific Charlie Hebdo massacre. The network has grown significantly in that time, boasting a stronger online presence through an independent website and social media, an increased number of members, a strong HDR and ECR network, and various recently introduced roles including Research Coordinator, Book Review Editor, Assistant Book Review Editor, Assistant Digest Editor, Fellow of the Jess-ters Coordinator, and Social Media Coordinator. Our largest activity remains the annual conference, but in addition to our longstanding regular Digest, our new podcast series *Cutting Edge*, forthcoming ECR podcast series *Serrated Edge*, our collaborations with the *European Journal of Humour Research* on joint book reviews, and our occasional webinar series and YouTube channel are important elements of our growing impact in the region.

It is to be celebrated that all this is achieved without needing to be an Incorporated Association with membership fees and official Executive positions. Instead, we manage all of these activities through the (seeming limitless!) goodwill of our members and volunteers. Watch this space for forthcoming improvements to our website, new podcast episodes, more book reviews and more humour-related news in our regular Digests. And of course, news of next year's conference, a hint of which appears below!

With all best wishes for the start of the Australasian academic year, and the continuation of the academic year in other parts of the world, from which many of our readers follow us.

Kerry

Assoc. Prof. Kerry Mullan
Chair of the AHSN Board
Global and Language Studies, RMIT University



And Now for our Next Conference...! *Everyone Must Go! (to AHSN 2026)*

Kia ora koutou,

We are excited to announce that the 32nd Australasian Humour Studies Network (AHSN) Conference will return to Wellington, the capital city of Aotearoa New Zealand in February of 2026. We tried this before in 2021, but that was back when our Labour government was more concerned with “public safety” than with the economy. We are happy to report that since then, the good people of New Zealand have elected a new government – one far more willing to make the tough sacrifices necessary to stimulate the economy. However, decreasing the quality of free school lunches and cutting taxes for the high earners can only go so far – we also need that sweet tourism dollar from our Australasian neighbours.

To that end, the creativity behind New Zealand’s governmental naming scheme (The Sixth National Government of New Zealand, 2023-present) was directed into Tourism NZ’s new PR campaign, which for the paltry price of \$500,000 came up with the slogan “everyone must go!” (which is definitely not ironic in light of record emigration to Australia). Since the members of the AHSN 2026 organising committee helped fund the slogan, it’s only right that we co-opt it for our purposes, and indeed target it not just across the Tasman but to the entire world!

So, hold the date, because everyone must go to AHSN 2026!



We are legally required to include this picture of the Wellington Cable Car in any international communication regarding Wellington. The Wellington Cable Car – easily within the top 82 most interesting things to do in Wellington.

Dates
11-13 February 2026

Location
[Wellington, New Zealand](#)

Venue
[Rutherford House](#), Pipitea Campus, Te Herenga Waka | Victoria University of Wellington



Rutherford House Campus (it's actually the ugly building behind this one) – now with a bus stop!

Organising Committee

Stephen Skalicky
Senior Lecturer
School of Linguistics and Applied Language Studies
Victoria University of Wellington



Nicholas Holm
Associate Professor
School of Humanities Media and Creative Comm
Massey University



Lydia N. C. Chan
PhD Candidate
School of Linguistics and Applied Language Studies
Victoria University of Wellington



CFP coming soon!
Inquiries/complaints: stephen.skalicky@vuw.ac.nz

New Assistant Book Review Editor for the AHSN Digest

Following approval by the AHSN Chair and Board, the AHSN Book Review Editor, Beatriz Carbajal Carrera, is delighted to advise that Lambok Hermanto Sihombing has joined her as Assistant Book Review Editor on the editorial team for the AHSN Digest.

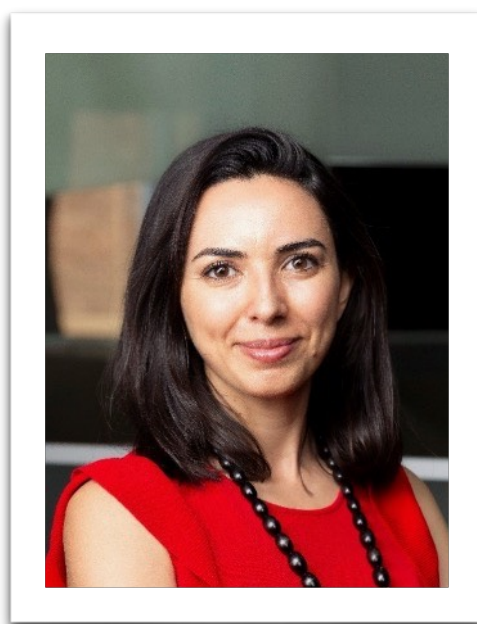
Congratulations and sincere thanks, Herman, for taking on this role, despite your workload as a busy full-time research doctoral candidate in the College of Humanities and Social Science at Flinders University.

If you have any queries about book reviews or are willing to accept commissions to review books, please feel free to contact either Beatriz or Herman via email:

beatriz.carbajal@sydney.edu.au

herman.sihombing@flinders.edu.au

About the AHSN Book Review Editor



Dr Beatriz Carbajal-Carrera is a Lecturer in Spanish and Latin American Studies at The University of Sydney. She is a linguist with training in pragmatics, sociolinguistics, discourse analysis and decolonial frameworks. Her research is concerned with the ways in which language shapes knowledge in two main contexts: humorous discourse and educational discourse. Her current work focuses on analysing the colonial logic underlying some communication instances. Her research has been published in journals such as *Australian Review of Applied Linguistics*, *Critical Discourse Studies*, *The European Journal of Cultural Studies* and *System*. She serves as Book Review Editor for the Australasian Humour Studies Network and as Assistant Editor for the *European Journal of Humour Research*.

About the AHSN Assistant Book Review Editor



Salam! Hello! Kia Ora!

My name is Lambok Hermanto Sihombing, please call me Herman. I am a researcher and doctoral candidate in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences at Flinders University. My main research interest in humour is about satire and politics, particularly in Indonesian stand-up comedy. Prior to my role as researcher at Flinders University, I was a lecturer in Communication Studies at President University, Indonesia. I am very pleased to join the AHSN Book Review team and looking forward to working with the team! If you have any inquiries regarding my research or anything related to the topics, don't hesitate to contact me at: herman.sihombing@flinders.edu.au

Thank you. Salam!

AHSN Member Performs at Melbourne International Comedy Festival 2025

Hobart-based **AHSN Member (and Fellow of the Order of the Jess-ters) Daryl Peebles**, has written and will present his new comedy show ***Stand Up for Seniors ... but not necessarily on the bus*** at the Melbourne International Comedy Festival from 26 March to 6 April 2025.

Stand Up for Seniors is a show about ageing – but not only for the elderly. Although it does give senior citizens an opportunity and a reason to laugh at the issues associated with ageing, it is also a helpful guide for younger audience members to help them navigate their own ageing process. Growing old is unavoidable – growing up is optional. *Stand Up for Seniors* is a great opportunity for people of all ages to laugh along with older generations - not at them.

Daryl Peebles is walking proof that comedy and laughter (along with other healthy lifestyle choices) helps us stay young. As Phyllis Diller once observed, “If you don’t have wrinkles, you haven’t laughed enough.”

About Daryl Peebles

For 30 years, Daryl was the debonair half of Tasmania’s longest-running comedy duo, *Novak ‘n’ Good* delighting audiences throughout Tasmania, Victoria and NSW. Since going solo in 2011, Daryl has performed in comedy clubs in Australia and Canada and is part of the annual Mental Health Week Comedy Road Shows.

Daryl has a PhD for his research into the value of positive humour in Australian workplaces and has explored the value of appropriate humour use in the mental health sector and in ageing. Daryl’s extensive career includes being a writer for the annual Old Nick Co Tasmanian University Revue since 1979; the annual Bawdy Pantomime since 2003 and several one-act and full-length comedy plays – many of which are still being produced by theatre companies in Australia, New Zealand and the UK. He has hosted two AHSN Conferences, in 2011 and 2022.

Check him out at: <https://www.instagram.com/p/DCNMgz6Ni-2/>

For MICF bookings visit: <https://tickets.improvpit.com/event/stand-up-for-seniors-but-not-necessarily-on-the-bus/>



Members' New Publications

Ludmilla A'Beckett. 2025. Appreciation of Black Humour Memes in the Context of the Russo-Ukrainian War. Special Collection: Humour as a Human Right, eds., Benjamin Nickl and Rodney Taveira. *Open Library of Humanities Journal*. 11 (1), 2025. <https://olh.openlibhums.org/collections/963/>

Suchi Chowdhury. 2024. Humour from the Right: Authoritarian Populism and Punch-Down Laughter in India. Special Collection: Humour as a Human Right, eds., Benjamin Nickl and Rodney Taveira. *Open Library of Humanities Journal*. 10 (2), 2024. <https://olh.openlibhums.org/collections/963/>

Fergus Edwards. 2025. Review of Conal Condren, 'Between Laughter and Satire: Aspects of the Historical Study of Humour' (London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2025). *European Journal of Humour Research* 12 (4): 323–326. www.europeanjournalofhumour.org

Robert Phiddian. 2025. Trolling feels like a new phenomenon. But it existed long before the internet. *The Conversation*. 20 February 2025. A review of: 'Trolling before the Internet: An Offline History of Insult, Provocation, and Public Humiliation in the Literary Classics' by David Rudrum (Bloomsbury). <https://theconversation.com/trolling-feels-like-a-new-phenomenon-but-it-existed-long-before-the-internet-246246>

Robert Phiddian. 2025. Review of Patrick Giamario: Laughter as politics: Critical theory in an age of hilarity. *HUMOR: International Journal of Humor Research*, 38 (1): 149-152. <https://doi.org/10.1515/humor-2022-0097>

Benjamin Nickl and Rodney Taveira (Guest Eds). 2024-2025. Humour as a Human Right. Special Collection, *Open Library of Humanities Journal*, 10 (2) and 11 (1). <https://olh.openlibhums.org/collections/963/>

Publisher's description of this on-going project: Humour as a Human Right' delves into the often-overlooked intersection of humour and human rights. This special collection explores humour's multifaceted role in expressing, challenging, and negotiating individual and collective rights. Its varied contributions bridge disciplinary gaps, drawing insights from fields like Humour Studies, Human Rights Discourse, Philosophy, Literature, Law, Technology, Political Science, History, Sociology, Media Studies, Gender, and Disability Studies.

The originality of this project lies in its comprehensive and collaborative approach, filling a gap in current scholarship. While existing studies treat humour and human rights separately, this collection brings them together, offering a perspective that enriches individual disciplines and contributes to the development of new humanities studies frameworks.

The collection's societal relevance is evident in its exploration of topics such as humour in paediatric palliative care or zones of war, and its use as a resilience tool by marginalised groups. It not only informs healthcare practices and policymaking but also challenges societal attitudes. On a broader scale, this collection stimulates public discourse, challenging traditional notions of the role of humour in human rights. It not only addresses academic gaps but also holds the potential to make a substantial impact on society, fostering inclusivity and equity.

Stephen Skalicky, Shelby Miller, Joshua Loomis and Salvatore Attardo. 2025. "Satire, honey and tears: how The Onion and The Babylon Bee do satire" HUMOR: International Journal of Humor Research, 38 (1): 1-23. <https://doi.org/10.1515/humor-2024-0053>

Panel Call For 2025 ISHS Conference, Krakow, 7-11 July 2025

Humour and the art of persuasion – a panel exploring how humour has been adopted by business and media and politics

Milner (1972) claimed humanity as *homo-ridens* and the use of humour within business and communication has developed an increasing momentum in the past 40 years. Later Spotts (1997) highlighted that the contemporaneous advertising spend in the United States of \$45 billion, or approximately one quarter of all advertising spend, is specifically targeted in advertisements intended to be humorous.

Therefore, the purpose of this panel will be to explore and discuss the use of humour within the broader business and advertising context. The use of humour as a tool to break down barriers has been extensively researched. From Ronald Reagan's quip about his age not being put too political use against his opponent's youth and inexperience to the recent developments by the Liberal Democrats in the 2024 British general election. This panel will seek to understand the extensive humour within this communication context and ask the questions:

- When has humour worked most effectively within the communication context and why.
- Which forms of humour work best within different media and business messaging contexts.
- When has humour fallen flat undamaged the communication effects of a message.

The panel will also seek to invite non-academic leaders from industry and advertising to provide their context and perceptions as to why humour is a widely used.

Suggested themes, but not limited, to include:

- Humour and effective human resource management. When does humour help defuse tension and build team unity and homogeneity
- Does humour help propagates the explosion of fake news across social media.
- Business use cases in the use of humour as a formalised tool of engagement by business with its internal and external stakeholders.
- The use of humour (generally) in relation to formal and informal communications, human research management, fake news, etc. – where the critical discussion is around how humour is applied to different business and media functions.

Please submit an abstract of up to 250 words and a brief biography, email address and affiliation to ISHS by 21 March 2025 to: david.mcgee@bcu.ac.uk and jonathan.sandling@port.ac.uk

Organisers:

Humour and business and media SIG Co-ordinators, David McGee and Jonathan Sandling

David McGee, MBA, FHEA

Senior Lecturer

Birmingham City University, UK

Email: david.mcgee@bcu.ac.uk

www.bcu.ac.uk/business-school/about-us/our-staff/strategy-management-and-marketing/david-mcgee

Call for Papers

Conference: The Figure of Irony Revisited

Date: 04-Oct-2025 - 05-Oct-2025

Location: Online, Greece

Contact: Angeliki Athanasiadou: angath@enl.auth.gr

Following previous successful theme sessions in ICLC 13 and ICLC 14, and publications of selected papers in Irony in Language Use and Communication 2017 (Athanasiadou and Colston (Eds.), FTL1 (J. Benjamins), and The Diversity of Irony 2020 (Athanasiadou and Colston (Eds.), CLR 65 (Mouton de Gruyter), the figure of irony is revisited in all its diversity as a fundamental and multifaceted mechanism.

Researchers working on irony might investigate its multifaceted character in a variety of languages, as well as on topics including, though not limited to, those below:

- production and interpretation of irony
- verbal and/or situational irony
- types of irony: Socratic irony, dramatic irony, irony of fate, each one influencing its study in linguistics and psycholinguistics; also irony and pragmatic functions in various sociocultural contexts, like bitter irony, polite irony(?), solidarity irony,...
- approaches to verbal irony (pretense, echoic accounts, relevant inappropriateness, allusional pretense, bicoherence, contrast, ...)
- irony and constructions: are there entities usually connected to irony? are there constructions favoured in irony production and/or in response to irony?
- irony and humour; irony and parody; irony and sarcasm: what is the distinctive line between them?
- verbal irony may combine with metaphor, metonymy, simile, hyperbole, understatement, rhetorical questions and many others, for a variety of practices such as political/extremist/racist, speech
- irony and multimodality in advertising, political cartoons, comics, animation, newspapers, TV commercials, co-speech or stand-alone gesture, ... or in any social, cultural, political or ideological background
- irony clustering in conversations and/or discourses
- irony framing
- irony priming.

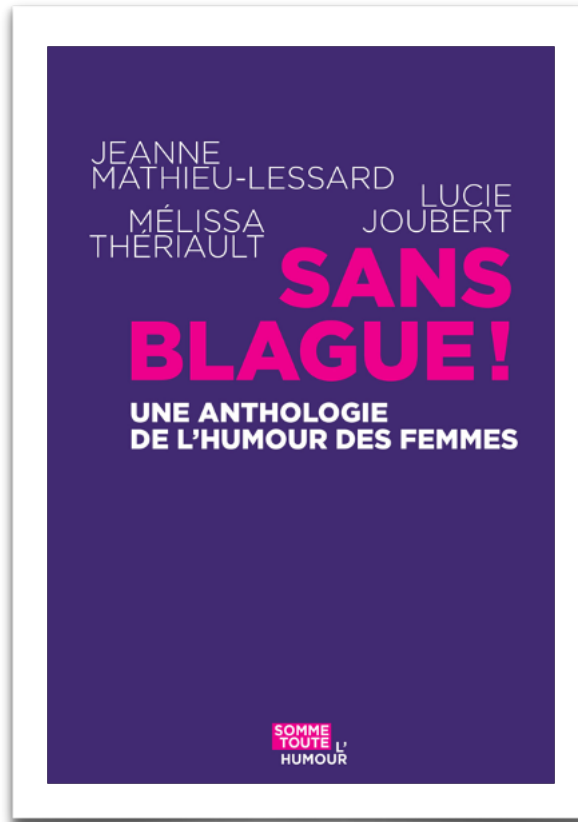
Proposals for abstracts (not more than 300 words) are encouraged both descriptive and/or theoretical, on the figure of irony that could account for its broader picture in conceptualization, expression and interpretation.

Presentations will be no longer than 15 min.

There is no registration fee.

If you are interested in participating, please send your abstract by 31 August 2025 to Angeliki Athanasiadou at: angath@enl.auth.gr

New Book on French-Canadian Women's Humour



Jeanne Mathieu-Lessard, Lucie Joubert, Mélissa Thériault (eds.). 2024. *Sans blague!* Anthologie de l'humour des femmes. [No joke! Anthology of Women's Humour]. Montreal: Somme Toute "L'humour". 486 pp. ISSN/EAN: 9782897944759. At: <https://editionssommetoute.com/livre/sans-blague/>

About this book

No joke! Anthologie de l'humour des femmes offers an overview of women's humour in Quebec and French-speaking Canada. Bringing together some 90 writers and comedians, the book includes an introduction to the artists, one particularly significant excerpt of their work, and a selection of their other productions and complementary references. There is a wide range of genres: excerpts from novels, songs, theatres, radio shows, variety sketches.

All this, organised chronologically, makes it possible to understand the history of women's humour by showing the fluctuation in the humorous strategies employed and the themes addressed. For example, we see how Eva Circé-Côté, as early as the 1920s, mocked wage inequalities; that the authors of the quiet revolution (Marie-Claire Blais, Suzanne Jacob) begin to ironically question all forms of male power; that platforms for humour began diversifying since the 2000s, and that the voice of the next generation (Les Grandes Crues, Marie-Lyne Joncas and Ève Côté; Mélanie Couture) is more intense, incisive and completely uninhibited. Finally, the volume seeks to be as inclusive as possible, providing space for racialized, indigenous, queer and transgender voices.

Topics: Anthology, humour of women, history of humour in Quebec and French-speaking Canada, society, politics, sexuality.

Editors' bionotes

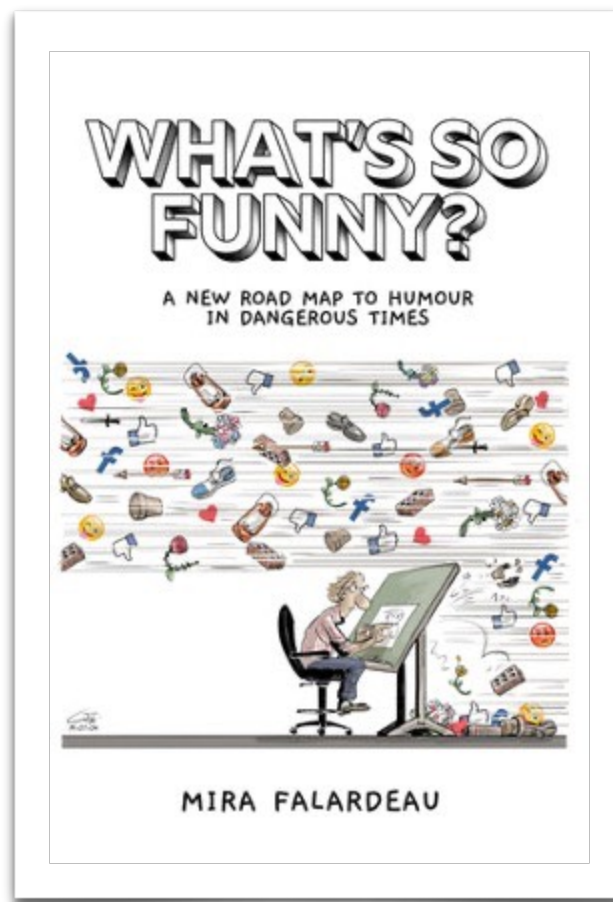
Jeanne Mathieu-Lessard teaches literature at the Cégep Garneau. She has published a book on humour and imprisonment, and several articles on women's humour and literature.

Lucie Joubert is the director of the Observatoire de l'humour; she has published two books on women's humour and has led several collectives on humour in general.

Mélissa Thériault has been attached to the Department of Philosophy and Arts at the Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières since 2013. Her research and publications focus on popular cultures and feminist issues, as well as the relationship between philosophy and literature.

New Publications on Humour Research

Book and Podcast on Humour in Dangerous Times



Mira Falardeau. 2025. What's So Funny? A New Road Map to Humour in Dangerous Times. Ontario: Mosaic Press. 250pp. ISBN: 9781771618120. <https://mosaicpress.ca/products/whats-so-funny-a-new-road-map-to-humour-in-dangerous-times>

Publisher's Description

Why do we laugh? What makes something funny? And why does humour remain such a powerful—and sometimes dangerous—tool in society? In *What's So Funny?*, renowned author of the widely acclaimed pioneering work *A History of Women Cartoonists*, Mira Falardeau takes readers on a fascinating journey through the evolution of humour, from ancient Greece to today's digital age. Drawing on literature, visual arts, theatre, comics, and satire, she unpacks the mechanics of comedy, exploring techniques like exaggeration, contrast, inversion, and wordplay. With a keen eye on the intersection of humour and free expression, Falardeau delves into the role of political cartoons, dark humour, and satire in challenging authority and shaping public discourse. At a time when humour is both celebrated and scrutinized, *What's So Funny?* serves as an essential guide to understanding the language of comedy and its impact on society.

Author Bio

Mira Falardeau is a renowned cartoonist and scholar whose work has appeared in *Chatelaine*, *Perspectives*, and *La Vie en rose*. Her comic art has been exhibited at the Contemporary Art Museum in Montreal and the Cartoonists Guild in New York. The author of several books, including *A History of Women Cartoonists* (Mosaic Press, 2020), she has taught at Laval University, the University of Ottawa, and CÉGEP Limoilou. She lives in Quebec City.



Jaquelin Hollo. (Host). (2024, July 11). The Importance of Humour in Dangerous Times: Mira Falardeau. In *Under The Covers*. The Mosaic Project. <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/the-importance-of-humour-in-dangerous-times-mira-falardeau/id1738143867?i=1000663933969>

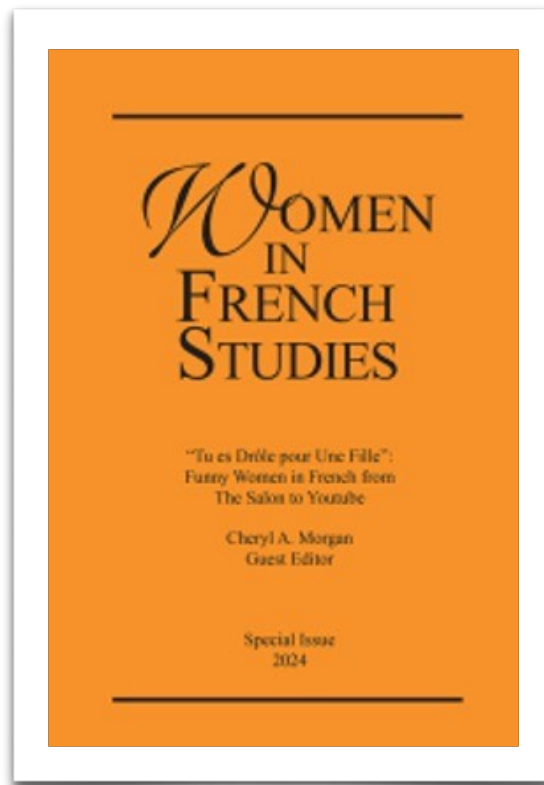
Publisher's Description

Join us for a captivating conversation with renowned cartoonist and academic, Mira Falardeau. She shares insights from her forthcoming book, *What's So Funny? A New Road Map to Humour in Dangerous Times*, exploring the intricate processes that make us laugh, the impact of humour on freedom of speech, and why humour is so important to democracy.

Podcast Information

Mosaic Press was founded as a Canadian book publisher dedicated to presenting significant and excellent Canadian writing. Jaquelin at Mosaic Press now goes *Under the Covers* with The Mosaic Project to give listeners an insight into the publishing world.

Special Issue on Women's Humour in French



Edited by Cheryl A. Morgan. 2024. “Tu es drôle pour une fille”: Funny Women in French from The salon to Youtube. *Women in French Studies*, vol. 10, 2024. ISSN: 2166-5486. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1353/wfs.2024.a946123>

Journal Information

Women In French exists to promote the study of women writers and women in civilization in the French-speaking world. An additional purpose of the organization is to share information and concerns about the status of women in Francophone countries and in higher education in North America. *Women In French* is an Allied Organization of the Modern Language Association and a member of the Council of Editors of Learned Journals.

Women In French Studies is a publication of Women In French. It is published once a year. Women In French also publishes special volumes at regular intervals.

Editor Information

Cheryl A. Morgan, Hamilton College, Clinton, USA

International Humour Researcher Profile

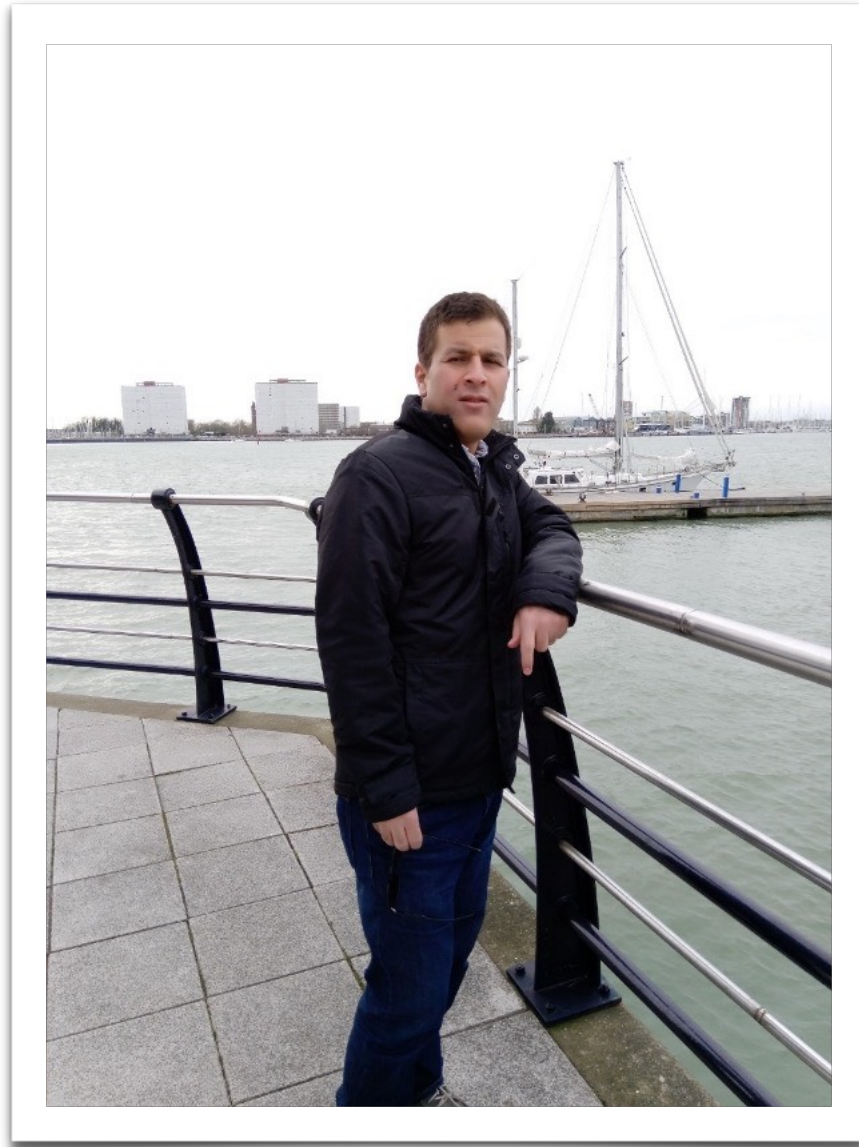
Dr Yousef Barahmeh

Yousef Barahmeh is a Jordanian Early Career Scholar working in the field of language and politics, with a particular interest in humour, media and identity politics in the Middle East and North Africa. Since completing his PhD at the University of Portsmouth, UK, in 2020, focusing on Jordanian ethnic and political humour before and after the 2011 Arab Spring uprisings, he has been working as an Assistant Professor in Linguistics at Isra University in Jordan, within both the Department of English Language and Literature and the Department of Translation.

Yousef has published his humour research so far in *Contemporary Levant* and *The European Journal of Humour Research*. He has also presented the substance of his ideas about humour research and Bakhtin's theories of carnival and the carnivalesque at various international conferences and workshops in China, Qatar, Estonia, Lebanon and the UK. His analysis of Jordanian politics and political humour in Jordanian social media spaces after the Arab Spring found that Bakhtin's 'marketplace' is no longer the streets and material public spaces, but rather social media spaces. Social media activism, particularly in Jordan after the Arab Spring, has enabled individuals (carnival-goers) to use humour as a tool for personal sanity and well-being, allowing them sometimes to 'play at resistance' rather than participate in actual protests in the streets and traditional public spaces in calls for regime change or revolution, as seen in Tunisia, Egypt, Libya and Syria. For more information about Yousef's humour research and other researches, please visit his ORCID profile at: <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8759-1314>, or feel free to contact him directly at: yousef.barahmeh1@gmail.com.

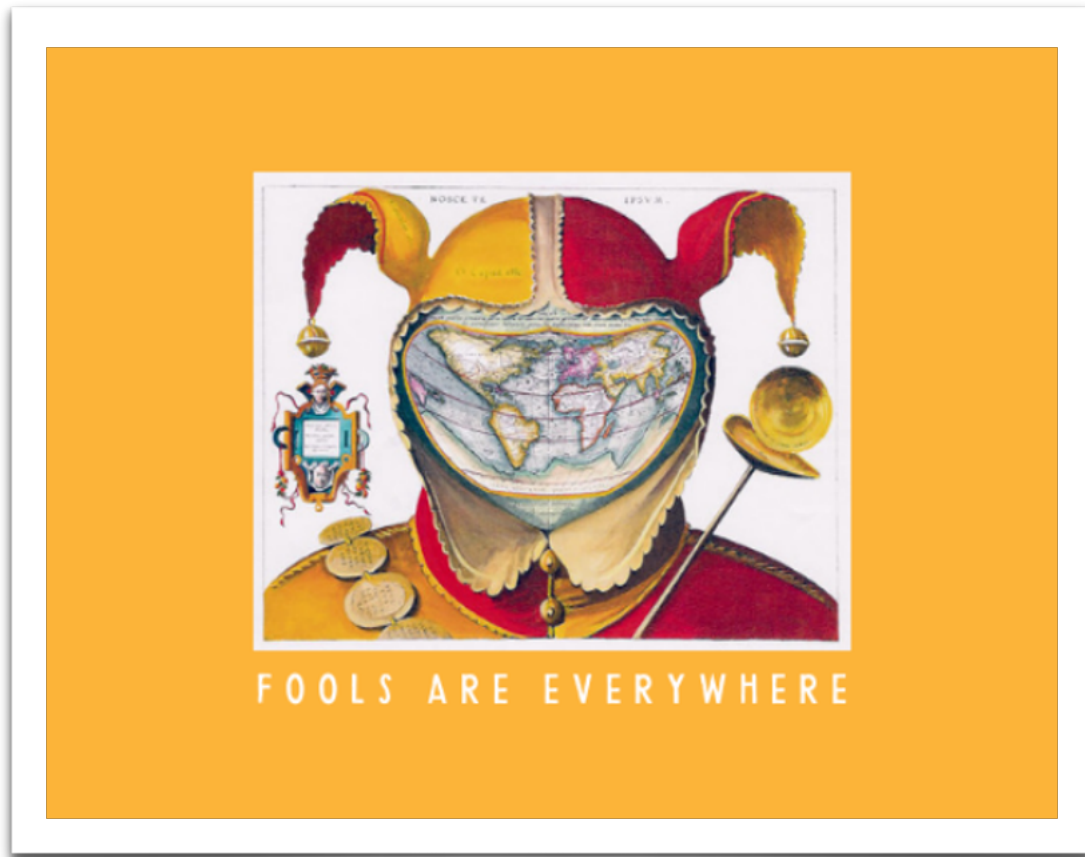
Yousef is happy to be contacted, and recruited, for any research projects or academic positions relating to the Middle East and North Africa. He is a member of The British Society for Middle Eastern Studies (BRISMES), has presented at the International Society for Humor Studies (ISHS), and is a regular reader of the Digests from The Australasian Humour Studies Network (AHSN). He reviews articles for international peer-reviewed journals in the fields of humour studies, media studies, politics and international relations in the Middle East.

Beyond his work in academia, research and teaching, Yousef is also a freelance translator specialising in English and Arabic across various types and contexts. He has worked as an associate researcher (translator) on many funded research projects in the UK and US. In his free time, he enjoys spending time with his family, especially his wonderful daughter, Masa, who turned 3 this past January. Masa and he enjoy playing, talking and going on afternoon walks together.



Eds: Thank you, Yousef, for sharing your interesting research and for being interested in our AHSN Humour Studies Digest. Noting recent interest in the important topic of humour in the Global South, we're happy to include your profile for the information of Australasian humour scholars.

Report on Fools Worldwide from Dr Beatrice Otto



‘Perhaps the mission of those who love mankind is to make people laugh at the truth, to make truth laugh...’

(Umberto Eco, Name of the Rose)

AIMS

‘Stultorum plena sunt omnia’, said the ancients, or ‘fools are everywhere’, and so it has proved. Launched one fine April Fools’ morning, the Fools Are Everywhere project is developing the most sparkling and scholarly global resource dedicated to fools and jesters. Modest ambitions, as you know, never got anybody anywhere.

APPROACHES

Fools Are Everywhere draws on thousands of examples in a dozen or so languages, amassed in or since researching the eponymous award-winning book. It includes:

- quotations and stories highlighting the nature and role of jesters in diverse cultures
- annotated bibliography of erudite yet engaging studies complemented by a judiciously selected canon of indispensable works
- virtual museum of fools real, imaginary, or both - the world’s Fooleum

- polyglot lexicon of fools and foolery
- biographical who's who as we open 'fool files' on individual jesters
- gap map comments so foolologists can plant fresh seeds in the field

IN PROGRESS

The current focus is on pumping primary source visual and written material through the pipeline to create critical mass, and to build the online bibliography. Content is tagged by:

- source - primary or secondary; book, thesis, paper; painting, sculpture, print etc
- place - region or country
- language - of the original source even if it is featured in translation
- period - century or dynasty
- category - fictive, folk, historical, dramatic or emblematic fools
- names - allowing for a search of specific jesters or the people they served
- other - including gender, disability, or other notable aspects

IN THE WORKS

We are exploring the most attractive ways to render this more sleekly searchable, including organising content in timelines, as well as in regional or country specific spaces.

A planned course providing a foundation in Fool Studies is also under development.

JOIN THE PARTY

Please visit [Fools Are Everywhere](#) and sign up for updates from the cutting edge of 'foolology'.

BACKGROUND

The project builds on the widely-cited book *Fools Are Everywhere: The court jester around the world* (Chicago University Press, 2001 & 2007) which showed the court jester to be a universal phenomenon who made the head honcho laugh and even see sense now and then.

Fools Are Everywhere won the American Association of Publishers' award for outstanding book of the year in its class (Scholarly Publishing: Language and Literature).

Its author, and founder of the project, is myself, Beatrice Otto, independent scholar and a leading contributor to 'foolology'. A foolologist, no less. The fool as globe-spanning archetype blazed into her consciousness the day she discovered vivid biographies of court jesters by China's Herodotus, Sima Qian. Flourishing over 1500 years before Shakespeare encoded Lear's fool in our cultural DNA, they were strikingly similar to the Western court jester. Thus began a lifelong absorption with these lively and resilient people.

The book pulled together a comprehensive bibliography, including a corpus of classical Chinese sources in a field which was previously somewhat Eurocentric. It also touches on latter day equivalents and the continuing need for this sweet-talking candour-seller.

Beatrice is available for interview and to give lively, illustrated talks on fools and jesters.

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WEBSITE: foolsareeverywhere.com

FOLLOW: [Academia](#) | [ResearchGate](#) | [Medium](#)

The Humour Studies Digest

The Australasian Humour Studies Network (AHSN)

‘We put the “U” back into “HUMOUR”!’

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Or to our wonderful Assistant Editor, Geoffrey Lee, at geoffrey.lee1@sydney.edu.au

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