ASHN2027 Call for Papers

33rd Annual Conference of the Australasian Humour Studies Research Network

10-12 February 2027
RMIT University, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia

Screens, Streams and Memes: Humour in a Mediated World

From stage and page to cinema screens, from the water cooler and the footy oval to television, social media and streaming platforms, humour lives in and through the channels that carry it. The conference invites papers exploring how the media for humour shape the ways it is created, performed, interpreted and shared.

How do conversational settings, performance spaces, print and visual media, digital platforms, formats and algorithms influence what we find funny? What happens to jokes, comic performances, playful language and humorous practices as they move between contexts, communities, cultures and media?

'Media' here is interpreted more broadly than the institutions and technologies of communication – magazines, television, podcasts, streaming video etc. Media can include wider means and mechanisms of exchange and interaction, including language, voice, gesture, social settings and spatial arrangements – for example, the office, the classroom or the public square. This broad lens encompasses the production, transmission and reception of humour in all its forms.

We welcome contributions from all disciplines represented in the Australasian Humour Studies Network – including, but not limited to, linguistics, literary and theatre studies, psychology, sociology, anthropology, history, philosophy, media and cultural studies, education and the creative arts – that address the aesthetics, functions, politics, ethics and everyday meanings of humour in its many mediated forms, past and present.

Important Dates

Conference dates: 10-12 February 2027

Abstract submission opens: 1 June 2026

Deadline for consideration for a student scholarship: 31 August 2026

Deadline for submissions of abstracts: 30 September 2026

Submission: Proposals should be submitted by email to AHSN2027@rmit.edu.au

Abstract Proposal Guidelines

Abstracts for individual papers should be no more than 300 words in length including:

1. A presentation title
2. The name of the presenter and a list of any other authors
3. An introduction of the research topic
4. An overview of relevant theories, evidence, methods and implications of the research for humour studies

The conference also welcomes proposals for panels. Such proposals should include a 300-word panel overview in addition to abstracts for individual participants as per the guidelines above. Panels should normally have three or four participants.

Note: All topics related to humour studies are welcome, regardless of engagement with conference theme.

All submissions will be reviewed by members of the AHSN Review Panel. Accepted abstracts will be published on the AHSN website and as part of the AHSN2027 conference booklet.

An archive of previous conference proceedings and further guidance about the review procedures and guidelines for proposals can be found on the AHSN website: https:// ahsnhumourstudies.org/annual-conference/

Student scholarships

AHSN awards up to five scholarships in the form of conference registration fee-waivers for research students enrolled for study primarily at Australian and Aotearoa/New Zealand universities. These will be awarded based on the quality of proposals (as judged by reviewers and AHSN2027 organising committee). Please note that in order to assist applicants in planning their travel, the deadline for submission of these proposals is earlier than the general closing date (see Important Dates above).

If you would like to be considered for the student scholarship, please indicate this on your abstract submission.

The AHSN 2027 Organising Committee

Mark Gibson – RMIT University
Bradley J. Dixon – RMIT University
Suchi Chowdhury – RMIT University
Kyle Harvey – Monash University
Jacob Sacher – Monash University
Mitchell Alexander – Monash University

Enquires: AHSN2027@rmit.edu.au