

**28<sup>TH</sup> AHSN CONFERENCE AT UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA**  
**2-4 FEBRUARY 2022**  
**INSTITUTE FOR MARINE AND ANTARCTIC STUDIES (IMAS)**  
**HOBART**

**CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR PAPERS, PANELS AND WORKSHOPS**

**The Call for Proposals for the 28<sup>th</sup> AHSN Conference is now open. It will close on 20 August 2021.**

The Conference theme is “**THE POLITICS OF HUMOUR and THE HUMOUR OF POLITICS**” and proposals addressing this theme will be especially welcome. However, the Conference Committee will also consider proposals on other aspects of humour and laughter more generally. Post-graduate students are warmly encouraged to submit proposals. The AHSN offers several scholarships for the first successful proposals by research students and in addition there will be five scholarships for University of Tasmania students to attend free of charge, whether presenting or not.

Humour is created, received and disseminated in many different social and cultural contexts, including that of politics. Humour and laughter can play an active role in politics, whether personal, local or national but they themselves also possess their own internal politics. The aesthetics of humour have long been the subject of philosophical and literary debate, from Aristotle and Plato to Confucius and Mencius. Today’s interconnected world means that humour and laughter are no longer simply private matters but are subject to rapid dissemination. As a consequence, they meet with audiences far beyond what may have been their creator’s original conception—sometimes bringing positive results but as world events in recent years have shown, sometimes rejection and backlash. Politics and humour are inextricably bound up together, a topic that calls for critical examination and discussion. This conference is designed to promote that enquiry in the scholarly, friendly and supportive atmosphere that has characterised the meetings of the Australasian Humour Studies Network since its inception in 1998.

**Submitting an abstract**

To submit an abstract for a paper, panel or workshop, please go to:

<https://ahsnhumourstudies.org/abstracts/>

Log in to your account or create a new one and then click on New Abstract. You can type in your abstract or upload your abstract file. In either case, your abstract must be **anonymised**. If the author can be identified, your submissions will be returned.

You will be asked to fill out the form with your details as well as the topic of your paper and your preference (in person or online – see below).

Please keep your profile details updated, especially your affiliation and position title.

Abstracts are limited to 500 words including references (if required). Abstracts will be reviewed by at least two reviewers under the AHSN’s standing review protocols (see AHSN website for more information). Successful applicants will be advised of review outcomes at latest by mid-November 2021.

Papers are allocated 20 minutes for presentation and 10 minutes for discussion; pre-organised panels of 3 presentations are allocated 90 minutes; and practical workshops of 60 minutes are welcome but will take place in parallel with paper sessions.

Prospective presenters will be asked to indicate a preferred presentation mode when submitting their abstract ("in person", "online only" or "online preferred"). Noting that government policies in both Australia and New Zealand/Aotearoa currently allow travel to Tasmania from within Australia and from NZ, the Conference's preferred mode for delivering a paper/panel is "in-person". Accepted papers that indicate "online" will be pooled for assessment on merit and presented in a limited online-only portion of the conference (e.g., one daily live Zoom panel – not pre-recorded). Preference in accepting proposals will be given to delegates who can be physically present in Hobart and for online presentation to student proposals.

To ensure that they receive all communications regarding the conference, all prospective presenters and attendees should subscribe to our free e-Newsletter, *The Humour Studies Digest*, at: <https://ahshumourstudies.org/newsletter/subscribe/>

### **Registration and Travel etc**

Registration for all presenters and attendees will open shortly. Information on travel and accommodation options, and on visiting Tasmania generally, can be found at: <https://ahshumourstudies.org/events/>

Tasmania in the summer is an ideal place to visit, so you are urged to start planning as soon as possible. Why not add a holiday before or after the conference dates? Wine and food, history and culture and of course glorious scenery – all abound in lovely Tasmania. Note that Hobart is likely to be a popular destination around the beginning of the new year and booking early is always advisable.

The Committee is looking forward to seeing as many AHSN'ers as possible in Hobart next February!

For information and updates on the conference arrangements, please visit the AHSN website at: <https://ahshumourstudies.org/events/>

**Conference email enquiries:** [ahsnconference@gmail.com](mailto:ahsnconference@gmail.com)

**Conference Convenor:** Dr Daryl Peebles (also host of 17<sup>th</sup> AHSN Conference, 2011)

**Committee:** Assoc Prof. Kerry Mullan, RMIT University  
Dr Jessica Milner Davis, AHSN Co-ordinator  
Dr Benjamin Nickl, University of Sydney  
Dr Mark Rolfe, University of NSW  
Dr Reza Arab, Griffith University