

The Humorous Times

Newsletter of the International Society for Humor Studies

Winter/Spring 2024

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Association News

2023 ISHS Election Results

From Martin Lampert, ISHS Executive Secretary-Treasurer

In Fall 2023, the Society held its biannual Board elections through the internet service, *Qualtrics*. With 113 valid returned ballots, Liisi Laineste (Estonian Literary Museum) received the most votes for ISHS President. She will serve as ISHS President through December 31, 2025. Julia Rayz (Purdue University, USA) and Simon Weaver (Brunel University, United Kingdom) were elected as ISHS Board Members-at-Large and will serve through December 2027. We thank Sharon Lockyer for her service as ISHS President for 2022 and 2023. She will remain on the Board as the Immediate Past President. We also thank Jennifer Hofmann (University of Zurich) and Villy Tsakona (National and Kapodistrian University of Athens) for their service as ISHS Board members from January 2020 through December 2023. Our best wishes to the new ISHS President and Board members.

Message from the New President

From Liisi Laineste, Estonian Literary Museum

I have always thought of the International Society for Humor Studies as my second family, ever since the first meeting with its members in Bertinoro in 2002. Acting as the head of this wonderful family for the next two years is a big challenge, but I will try to do it to the best of my knowledge. I would like to thank all ISHS members for trusting me with the mandate - or giving me the baton, as Delia Chiaro said when giving her term over to Wladyslaw Chlopicki back in 2018. I welcome you to turn to me with whatever society-related questions or suggestions you might have. Just drop me a line via email (liisi@folklore.ee) or in the ISHS forum!

You have given me a huge responsibility, but luckily, I have so many excellent examples to take after. This is why I would like to thank all the past presidents who have done so much for the society, and especially the ones whose actions I have had the chance to observe from a closer distance, while serving at the Board or being the organizing the 2018 ISHS conference in Tallinn, Estonia.

The upcoming two years will be filled with duties and joys as I will continue the work that has been carried out by my predecessors. I would like to especially thank the outgoing president Sharon Lockyer, who, as others before her, has done a lot in making the society thrive. Her numerous initiatives and ideas have successfully materialized in the past year - Special Interest Groups, a listserv, and a special pre-conference event for early career humor scholars, to name a few. I will do my best to ensure that these measures will continue serving the Society. I would also like to extend a special thank you to the organizers of the past two conferences - to the energetic Delia Chiaro and her team and the 2022 Bertinoro conference, and the always reliable Patrice Oppliger and her assistants and the 2023 Boston conference.

The years of the COVID pandemic have given a push to ISHS members connecting more often than before through online channels. This kind of continuing interaction is surely something that shows the

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Next Issue

The next *The Humorous Times* is due Summer 2024.

healthy state of our society - ISHSers like to stay in touch, even when meeting in person is not possible for some reason. It shows that the Society is going strong. Meetings, be them on- or offline, is how collaborations happen, innovations are born, and new ideas resonate. This year, the ISHS annual conference will be entirely online, organized by Christian Hempelmann and his colleagues at the Texas A&M University, April 19-21, 2024. I am sure it will be a successful event, but I also hope that in 2025 we can meet already in person and make up for the coffee-breaks, dinner-talks and evening walks that did not happen virtually.

It is the personal connections that make up the core of our society and make us want to collaborate, quite like in a regular family. Even though so far, the ISHS conferences have primarily offered a chance for the family to meet up, we have now many more opportunities to talk to each other and find similar minds and people of kin. Support and friendship can be found in the ISHS forum and through the SIGs. My aim in the two upcoming years is to continue building and maintaining a supportive atmosphere, and to invite more people to join the society so that everyone who needs academic support or a sounding board in humor studies can benefit from it. Raising a wider interest in the ISHS and especially promoting the integration of newcomers - students, early career researchers and established scholars alike is one of my priorities. There can never be too many ISHSers! Our annual conferences and in-between conference events should be advertised far and wide, so that more scholars dealing with humor would join us. The process of updating the society's webpage and plans of raising our social media presence are in the service of that aim.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our next annual ISHS event: the online conference hosted by Texas A&M University on April 19-21 this year. After this big meeting is over, I will have a chance to meet you at the ISHS Special Interest Groups' webinar series held from May to June 2024. Please log in and find out what each SIG has to offer!

Message from the Past President

From Sharon Lockyer, Brunel University, United Kingdom

It has been a very busy couple of years while I have had the honor of serving as your ISHS president from 2022-2023. In addition to finding its feet again after the COVID-19 pandemic with its annual conferences, the society now has ten Specialist Interest Groups that will help to shape the future of the society, enable members to engage with the society in different ways and ensure that members' interests are represented. There are now new ways that members can get in contact with each other, including the new listserv and the discussion forum, and I encourage everyone to make the most of these new opportunities to connect with each other. We are also in the throes of the logo competition (please remember to cast your votes by April 15!), and the website revamp. Thank you to everyone who has supported, and been involved with, these activities.

I was lucky enough to preside over two in-person conferences during my term. One in Bertinoro in 2022 convened by Delia Chiaro and one in Boston in 2023 convened by Patrice Oppliger. Huge appreciation and thanks to Delia, Patrice and their teams for, again, organizing such interesting, varied and memorable conferences. I am writing this past president message as we plan the Graduate Student and Early Career Researcher pre-conference session that will be part of the online 2024 ISHS conference hosted Texas A&M University-Commerce. We hope this will build on the well-attended pre-conference session held at the Boston conference last year, so that the society can continue to support its graduate student and early career members. Thank you to Christian Hempelmann and Salvatore Attardo for hosting this year's conference, which promises to be a truly excellent conference.

During my term, the Society was reorganized and established as a nonprofit organization as it transitioned from Holy Names University. Grateful thanks to Martin Lampert, ISHS Executive Secretary-Treasurer, for working endlessly to ensure that the Society completes its required paperwork and meets its legal requirements.

It's now time for me to pass the president's baton over to our new president, the accomplished and skillful, Liisi Laineste.

I very much look forward to seeing you all online at the 2024 ISHS conference, April 19-21, and then again through May and June at the Specialist Interest Group webinar series. And finally, as always, I would like to thank you all for your sustained interest, support, and passion for the ISHS and humor studies.



ISHS Online Research Forum

ISHS has established an online forum 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.



ISHS Listserv

Working with Moira Marsh at Indiana University, ISHS has launched a listserv 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 Logo Competition

At the ISHS Conference in Boston, ISHS members expressed an interest to update the Society's logo seen here. To provide all ISHS members with an opportunity to participate in a redesign of our logo, the ISHS Executive Board launched a logo competition. By March 1, the Society had received eight official logo entries, and on March 20, all 2023 and 2024 ISHS members were invited to vote on their preferred logo. Balloting in the Logo Competition will continue through April 15, and the results will be announced at the 2024 ISHS Conference in April.

Upcoming ISHS Events



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, Salvatore Attardo, and Shelby Miller (Texas A&M University, Commerce) will host the April Conference and registration this year is just \$20. The website for the joint ISHS/HR Conference is now available with additional details about the schedule and registration. For additional information, visit the ISHS/HR website at <https://www.tamuc.edu/humor>.



2024 ISHS Webinar Series

Online, April 19 through June 21, 2024

The International Society for Humor Studies is pleased to announce a 2024 Webinar Series, featuring the Society's newly established Specialists Interest Groups. The Series will launch during the April 2024 ISHS Conference with a first session on AI Humor hosted by Tristan Miller, Christian Hempelmann, and Julia Rayz. The series will resume on Saturday, May 11 with the webinar, *The Varieties of Humorous Experiences in Animated Films*, and will continue successive Fridays through June 21. Below is the complete schedule. The webinar series is open to all 2024 ISHS members as part of their ISHS membership.

Four webinars (*AI Humor*, *Varieties of Humorous Experience in Animated Film*, *Humor and Religion*, and *Multimodality and Interactional Humor*) are calling for paper submissions. If you would like to participate in one of these four webinars, contact the Webinar organizers by the listed CFP deadline. Additional CFP information is available on the ISHS Seminars page at <https://www.humorstudies.org>. If you have general questions about the webinar series, you can contact the ISHS Executive Secretary, Martin Lampert, at humorstudies@outlook.com.

2024 ISHS Webinar Series: Calendar

AI Humor (during the 2024 ISHS Conference, April 19-21)

Organizers: Tristan Miller, Christian Hempelmann, and Julia Rayz

Contact: Tristan.Miller@umanitoba.ca

Animated Laughter: Varieties of Humorous Experience in Animated Films (May 11, 2024)

Organizers: Terry Lindvall & Will Costanzo

Contact: tlindvall@vwu.edu

Call for papers deadline, April 19, 2024.

Key Issues in Humor and the Law (May 17, 2024)

Organizers: Alberto Godioli & Laura Little

Contact: a.godioli@rug.nl

Multimodality and Interactional Humor – Methods and Theories (May 24, 2024)

Organizers: Elisa Gironzetti & Beatrice Priego Valverde

Contact: elisag@umd.edu

Call for papers deadline, April 15, 2024.

Cutting Edge of Online Humour Research (May 31, 2024)

Organizers: Liisi Laineste & Anastasiya Fiadotava

Contact: liisi@folklore.ee

Humor and Religion (June 7, 2024)

Organizers: Nicole Graham & Lina Liederman

Contact: nicole.graham@kcl.ac.uk

Call for papers deadline, March 31, 2024.

Humor and Conflict in the Global South (June 14, 2024)

Organizers: Diego Hoefel, João Paulo Capelotti, & Rujuta Date

Contact: joao.capelotti@gmail.com

Humor, Translation and Taboo in 2024 (June 21, 2024)

Organizers: Chiara Bucaria, Delia Chiaro, & Anthony Dion Mitzel

Contact: chiara.bucaria@unibo.it

Other Events

Symposium on Humor and Conflict in the Public Sphere

Lueven, Belgium, April 4-5, 2024

The Center for Sociological Research (CeSO) at KU Leuven is organizing a [Symposium on Humor and Conflict in the Public Sphere](#) on April 4-5, 2024, coordinated by Giselinde Kuipers and Jonas Nicolai. Several panel talks, exhibitions and documentary screenings will facilitate dialogue between academics, comedic professionals, and broader audiences, and present the results of two humor projects, HuSca and CELSA. Two of the sessions will be broadcast live for ISHS members. Follow the links below and join us in Leuven.

Panel on Cartoons and the Depiction of Social Conflict

[Uses this Link to Join the Panel Presentation on April 4, 2024, at 3:45 pm CET](#)

Keynote by Alberto Godioli on Humor and Free Speech

[Use this Link to Join the Keynote Presentation on Friday, April 5, 2024, at 2:00 pm CET](#)

Thirty-Seventh Annual Conference of the Association for Applied and Therapeutic Humor

Denver, Colorado, April 4-7, 2024

The theme of the 37th AATH Conference will be Serious about Humor. Conference discounts are available to ISHS members. For more information, visit the AATH Conference page at <http://www.aath.org>.

Humour, Satire and Play in History, Pedagogy, and Therapy

University of Northampton, Waterside Campus, United Kingdom, June 27-28, 2024

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. 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. Submit presentation proposals to Siobhan Hyland: Siobhan.hyland@northampton.ac.uk by January 31, 2024. For more information contact the conveners, Mark Rothery at mark.rothery@northampton.ac.uk or Paul Jackson at paul.jackson@northampton.ac.uk.

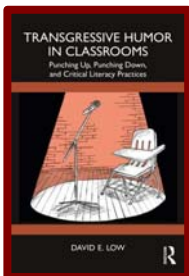
Recent Publications



Humor, Identity, and Belonging

Stephen J. Moody (2024). *Humor, identity, and belonging: Constructing the foreign in American-Japanese interaction*, De Gruyter, 190 pp., ISBN-13: 978-3-1107-5971-6; E-ISBN: 978-3-1107-5987-7

From the Publisher: This book presents an ethnographic perspective on the intersection of humor, identity, and belonging. Based on recorded interactions between Americans and Japanese, it explores how beliefs and stereotypes surrounding gaijin ‘foreigner’ identities create various types of humor such as mockery, sarcasm, and conversational jokes. Through this analysis, the study also discusses how identity-focused humor impacts participants’ understandings of interculturality and social belonging. In particular, it argues that while “being an outsider” can be marginalizing, humor allows cultural differences to become a basis for developing inclusion and social unity, in part through the recognition of shared norms and values.



Transgressive Humor in Classrooms

Loukia Kostopoulou & Vasiliki Misiou, Eds. (2023). *Transmedial Perspectives on Humour and Translation*. Routledge, E-ISBN: 978-1-0033-1710-4

From the Publisher: In this innovative book, David E. Low examines the multifaceted role of humor in critical literacy studies. Talking about how teachers and students negotiate understandings of humor and social critique vis-à-vis school-based critical literacy curriculums, the book co-examines teachers’ and students’ understandings of humor and critique in schools. Through examples of classroom interactions and anecdotes, Low analyzes the role of humor in classroom settings to uncover how humor interplays with critical inquiry, sensemaking, and nonsense-making.



Religion and Humour

David Feltmate (2024). *Religion and humour: An introduction*. Routledge, 116 pp., ISBN 978-1-0321-2555-8 (cloth); E-ISBN 978-1-0321-2556-5 (paper).

From the Publisher: This timely and lively introduction to exploring the intersection of religion and humour evaluates existing scholarship and methodologies within the field, arguing for a culturally critical approach to the study. Hinged on a qualitative sociological framework, this book asks questions about the construction, presentation, and purpose of humour in religious contexts. It is broken down by theoretical approach, with chapters covering:

- a “comparative religions” approach
- a theological approach
- how social sciences offer us useful tools for research
- a review of existing theoretical models

This engaging book is essential reading for students approaching the topic for the first time, and for anyone with an interest in related fields such as religion and popular culture and humour studies.

Recent Articles in Humor Studies

The Humorous Times announces recent articles from *HUMOR: International Journal of Humor Research* and by researchers who publish elsewhere within humor studies. The following list, compiled by the ISHS Executive Secretary, includes articles published since December 2023. If you have a recent publication, let us know. We will include it in a future newsletter.

- Aerila, J. A., Marja-Leena Rönkkö, M. L., & Stenius, T. (2023). Humour-themed holistic learning processes in a Finnish primary school. *European Journal of Humour Research*, 11(4), 75-92. <https://doi.org/10.7592/EJHR.2023.11.4.841>
- Agostoni, G., Bischetti, L., Repaci, F., Bechi, M., Spangaro, M., Ceccato, I., ... Bambini, V. (2024). The cognitive architecture of verbal humor in schizophrenia. *Neuroscience Letters*, 818, N.PAG. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.neulet.2023.137541>
- Ancheta, M. R. G. (2024). Humour in Asian cultures: Tradition and context. *Journal of Asian Studies*, 83(1), 219–222. <https://doi.org/10.1215/00219118-10872780>
- Babinszki, E., & Balázs, K. (2023). Humorous advertisement categories. *European Journal of Humour Research*, 11(4), 31-53. <https://doi.org/10.7592/EJHR.2023.11.4.781>
- Bear, J. B., & Miron-Spektor, E. (2024). Understanding the role of gender in humor expression: Directions for future scholarship. *Current Opinion in Psychology*, 55. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.copsyc.2023.101724>
- Bencharfa, Z., Tounsi, A., Fouad, L., & Abderrazak, O. (2023). When laughing gas becomes neurotoxic. *Journal of the Neurological Sciences*, 455, N.PAG. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jns.2023.122496>
- Biemans, W. G., & Huizingh, E. K. R. E. (2023). Why so serious? The effects of humour on creativity and innovation. *Creativity and Innovation Management*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/caim.12587>
- Bodea-Hațegan, C., Trifu, R. N., Talaș, D. A., Popescu, T., & Nemeș, B. (2024). Humor use in speech and language therapy in Romania. *Romanian Journal for Multidimensional Education / Revista Românească Pentru Educație Multidimensională*, 16(1), 195–223. <https://doi.org/10.18662/rrem/16.1/819>
- Brown, A., & Woodfield, R. (2024). Banter and beyond: The role of humor in addressing gendered organizational tensions and belonging within the uk fire and rescue service. *Gender, Work and Organization*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/gwao.13110>
- Cai, C. Q., Mueller, M. A. E., Lima, C. F., Jin, G., Turek, A., ... Scott, S. K. (2024). Development of a novel tool to investigate human laughter behaviour and experience. *Neuroscience Letters*, 825, N.PAG. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.neulet.2024.137690>
- Cao, Y., Liu, Y., Hou, Y., & Ji, L.-J. (2024). Essentializing Humor and implications for pursuing happiness. *Journal of Happiness Studies*, 25(1/2), 1–16. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10902-024-00717-y>
- Cazes, M., Noël, A., & Jamet, E. (2024). Cognitive effects of humorous drawings on learning: An eye-tracking study. *Applied Cognitive Psychology*, 38(1), 1–12. <https://doi.org/10.1002/acp.4178>
- Chang, C.-Y., Chan, Y.-C., & Chen, H.-C. (2024). The differential processing of verbal jokes by neural substrates in indigenous and Han Chinese populations: An fMRI study. *Behavioural Brain Research*, 457, 1–9. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.bbr.2023.114702>
- Cheng, D., Wang, L., Amarnani, R. K., & Chan, X. W. (2024). Leaders laughing in the line of fire: An emotional aperture perspective on leader laughter in response to critical questions. *Journal of Applied Psychology*. <https://doi.org/10.1037/apl0001178.supp> (Supplemental)
- Cohen-Chen, S., Dhensa-Kahlon, R. K., & Hameiri, B. (2024). Humorous responses to gender injustice: The contrasting effects of efficacy and emotions on women's collective action intentions. *Sex Roles: A Journal of Research*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11199-024-01459-0>
- Constantinescu, M. V. (2024). Conventional metaphorical scenarios of humor in Romanian *HUMOR: International Journal of Humor Research*, 37(1), 87-108. <https://doi.org/10.1515/humor-2023-0131>
- Das, S. (2023). Laughing bodies and the tickle machine: understanding the YouTube pipeline through alt-right humour. *Journal for Cultural Research*, 27(4), 391–405. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14797585.2023.2253564>
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- Elide Vanutelli, M., Daum, M. M., & Manfredi, M. (2024). Mini-review: Wild laughs: Ontogenesis and phylogenesis of humour. *Neuroscience Letters*, 822, N.PAG. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.neulet.2023.137615>

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- Kurtça, T. T., & Demirci, İ. (2023). Psychopathy, impulsivity, and internet trolling: role of aggressive humour. *Behaviour & Information Technology*, 42(15), 2560-2571. <https://doi.org/10.1080/0144929X.2022.2133635>

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