

# The Humorous Times

Newsletter of the International Society for Humor Studies

Summer/Fall 2024

Volume 37, Issue 2/3

## Association News

### 35th International Society for Humor Studies Conference

Kraków, Poland, July 7-11, 2025

*From Władysław Chłopicki, Convener, Jagiellonian University*

The 2025 ISHS Conference will be held in a spectacular location, a castle overlooking the Vistula river and the mountainous landscape, adjoining the largest wooded area of Kraków, ideal for early morning summer walks, about 5 km away from the historic center of the thousand-year-old former capital of Poland. The venue is easily accessible from the airport, train and bus station as well as the historic city center by public transportation or taxi. The Conference will be co-hosted by Jagiellonian University, the oldest public university in Poland. We are looking forward to meeting humor scholars from across the globe there.

The Conference will take place over five days (Monday, July 7th through Friday, July 11th) with morning plenary sessions followed by breakout sessions. The first day will feature a number of pre-conference seminars for graduate students delivered by experts in different fields of humor research, as well as Philosophy of Humor panels. The Conference will include an opening reception, coffee breaks, the Conference dinner and comedy night.

As for accommodations, participants will have an opportunity to stay onsite in a comfortable four-star Forest Hotel in 60 single or double rooms on the-first-come-first-served basis, with all the Conference facilities and catering available on the spot. As an extra perk, the participants can use the sauna area appropriately placed in a Graduation Tower. The adjoining Zinar Castle offers 36 rooms with a view, akin to a five-star hotel. For those who would prefer to stay in the old city of Krakow, there are multiple accommodation options in the city center.

The Conference early bird rates depend on whether participants decide to stay on site in one of the Conference hotels (please book early) or stay in the city center and commute to the Conference site (5 kilometers by tram/bus). Registration fees will range from \$250 (student, no accommodation) to \$750 (non-member, 4-nights single room accommodation in the Forest Hotel). One extra night in the Forest Hotel costs \$90. Zinar Castle is a spectacular accommodation option, definitely recommended for those who prefer comfort and lavishness (and ready to pay an extra \$180 per night for it).

You can visit the Conference website at <https://ishs2025.pl/>, and online registration will begin on November 30, 2024. The paper submission deadline will be February 14, 2025, and early bird registration deadline is February 28, 2025. If you wish to submit a panel, the deadline is January 14, 2025. All the ISHS special-interest groups are encouraged to submit panels (see <https://humorstudies.org/SIGCenter.htm> for the list of SIGs). For more information, prospective delegates can write to [info@ishs2025.pl](mailto:info@ishs2025.pl). Conference updates will also be posted on the ISHS website at <http://www.humorstudies.org> and on the Society's Facebook, Instagram, and X pages.

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## Next Issue

The next *Humorous Times* is due in December 2024. Items for the December issue should be sent to

## Report on 34th Conference of the International Society for Humor Studies

*Texas A&M University–Commerce (Online), April 19-21, 2024*

*From Shelby Miller, Co-Convener, Texas A & M University, Commerce*

The 34th Conference of the International Society for Humor Studies (ISHS) was hosted online by Texas A&M University-Commerce from April 19-21, 2024, in conjunction with TAMUC's 14th Humor Research Conference (HRC). Pre-conference activities on April 18th offered three engaging sessions and workshops, including Dr. Anita Dorczak's workshop entitled, *Humor and Conflict Resolution: A Surprising Duo*, and a graduate student and early career scholar session, *Everything you wanted to know about publishing in humor studies: Top tips and top pitfalls*. This session was chaired by ISHS Past President Sharon Lockyer, with assistance from Salvatore Attardo, Anastasiya Fiadotava, Christian Hempelmann, and Liisi Laineste. A special webinar, *Humor and Artificial Intelligence*, was also part of the conference program, organized by Christian F. Hempelmann, Tristan Miller, and Julia Taylor Rayz. Presenters included Drew Gorenz and Norbert Schwarz; Ryan Rony Dsilva and Julia Taylor Rayz; Eleni Giannitzi, Vladislav Maraev and Christine Howes; Robert Mankoff; and Joe Toplyn.

The main conference saw nearly 200 attendees, featuring 17 poster presentations and 82 papers and panel presentations on a broad range of humor related topics. The conference's highlights included plenaries by Susan Herring (Indiana University), *Performing Laughables in TikTok Duets*, and by Amir Sheikhan (University of Queensland), *Responding to Humour in Interaction*. Panel topics included *Humor and Neurodiversity*, *Philosophy and the Comic*, *A Tribute to the Comedies of Norman Lear*, *Humour, Race and Racism in a Global Context*, *Following the Joke: Ethnographic Approaches to Humor*, *LOLz and the Law*, and *Humor Theories: The More the Merrier or Too Much of a Good Thing?* Beer Prakken (University of Groningen) received the Don and Alleen Nilsen Young Scholars Award for his paper, *Humorous Political Rhetoric: A United States Case Study*, and He Wang (Columbia University) received a Graduate Student Award for her work, *Field of Humor: An Anatomy of Jokes in Premodern Japan*. For those who missed the conference, the conference website ([www.tamuc.edu/humor](http://www.tamuc.edu/humor)) still features the book exhibit and many of the pre-recorded poster presentations.

## 2024 ISHS Webinar Series Update

*Online, April 19 through June 14, and November 15, 2024*

The International Society for Humor Studies ran in Spring 2024 a webinar series, featuring the Society's Specialists Interest Groups. The Series launched during the April 2024 ISHS Conference with a first session on AI Humor hosted by Tristan Miller, Christian Hempelmann, and Julia Rayz. The series resumed on Saturday, May 11 with the webinar, *The Varieties of Humorous Experiences in Animated Films*, and continued on successive Fridays through June 14. The Spring 2024 webinars were all recorded, and current members should have already received an e-mail with the link and password to view the recordings.

The final webinar in the series, *Translation, Taboo, and Humor in 2024* has been rescheduled for Friday, November 15. Current ISHS members will be automatically registered and will receive an e-mail invitation to join this final webinar for 2024.

Additional webinar information can be found on the ISHS Seminars page at <https://www.humorstudies.org>. Below is the complete list of the 2024 Webinars with contact information. If you have general questions about the webinar series, you can contact the ISHS Executive Secretary, Martin Lampert, at [humorstudies@outlook.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:tlindvall@vwu.edu)

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

Organizers: Alberto Godioli & Laura Little

Contact: [a.godioli@rug.nl](mailto:a.godioli@rug.nl)

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

Organizers: Elisa Gironzetti & Beatrice Priego Valverde

Contact: [elisag@umd.edu](mailto:elisag@umd.edu)

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

Organizers: Liisi Laineste & Anastasiya Fiadotava

Contact: [liisi@folklore.ee](mailto:liisi@folklore.ee)

### **Humor and Religion** (June 7, 2024)

Organizers: Nicole Graham & Lina Liederman

Contact: [nicole.graham@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:nicole.graham@kcl.ac.uk)

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

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

Contact: [joao.capelotti@gmail.com](mailto:joao.capelotti@gmail.com)

### **Humor, Translation and Taboo in 2024** (November 15, 2024)

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

Contact: [chiara.bucaria@unibo.it](mailto:chiara.bucaria@unibo.it)

## **ISHS Logo Competition Results**

*From the ISHS Executive Board*



At the 2023 ISHS Conference in Boston, ISHS members expressed an interest to update the Society's smiley face logo. To provide all ISHS members with an opportunity to participate in a redesign of the logo, the ISHS Executive Board launched a competition in Fall 2023 with a \$150 prize for the best redesign. The competition received eight eligible submissions. This past spring, Society members voted on whether to retain the smiley face logo or replace it with one of the received submissions. At the end of voting, the original smiley face and a smiley globe design (seen here) received top votes but were essentially tied in the balloting. Over the summer, the Board reran the membership vote with just these two designs, and the smiley globe logo was the ultimate winner. Joe Topyln submitted the smiley globe design, and he donated the \$150 prize to the ISHS scholarship fund. The new logo is currently featured on the ISHS website and will

appear on other ISHS sites and materials.

## **ISHS on Social Media**

*From the ISHS Social Media Managers*

Alongside other efforts to popularize the ISHS, the society has set up a social media team to revitalize its social media presence. The team consists of Anthony Dion Mitzel, João Paulo Capelotti, Anthony Manu and Anastasiya Fiadotava, who will operate the Society's social media platforms on [Facebook](#) (handle: humorstudies), [X](#) (handle: humor\_studies), [Instagram](#) (handle: humorstudies) and [YouTube](#). While Facebook, X, and Instagram are primarily intended to advertise the Society's and other humor studies events and publications, the YouTube channel will become a convenient repository for lectures and webinars on humor. All society members are encouraged to suggest ideas for social media posts, as well as to subscribe to our social media channels and to like and share our posts!

## Upcoming Events

### Fifteenth Humor Research Conference

**Commerce, Texas, February 14-16, 2025**

The Humor Research Conference is an online student-organized international multidisciplinary all-plenary event dedicated to the study of humor in all its facets. The 15th annual Humor Research Conference will be a live-broadcast on the web from February 14 to 16, 2025. Submissions on any topic related to humor studies, including but not limited to literary studies, psychology, folklore, sociology, computer science, and linguistics, are welcome. The deadline for paper submissions is expected at the very beginning of 2025 and will be announced on the website. Paper submissions and inquiries should be sent to the Conference Organizers at [HRC@tamuc.edu](mailto:HRC@tamuc.edu). For more information, visit the [HRC Conference Website](#).

### Thirty-First Annual AHSN Colloquium

**Flinders University, Adelaide, Australia, February 19-21, 2025**

The 31st Colloquium of the Australasian Humour Studies Network (AHSN) will be held at Flinders University in Adelaide, Australia. The colloquium theme will be *The Evolutions of Humour*, and the paper submissions deadline is August 31, 2024. Paper proposals can be sent via e-mail to Dr. Alex Cothren at [alexander.cothren@flinders.edu.au](mailto:alexander.cothren@flinders.edu.au). For additional information, you can visit the AHSN website at <https://ahsnhumourstudies.org/annual-conference>.

### Fifty-First Annual Meeting of the Association for the Study of Play

**South Padre Island, Texas, USA, February 26-March 1, 2025**

The 51st Annual Meeting of The Association for the Study of Play will take place at South Padre Island Holiday Inn in South Padre, Texas. The conference theme will be *Sustaining Play*, and the paper proposal deadline is November 3, 2024. Proposals can be submitted online at <https://studyofplay.org/tasp-2025/>, and proposal inquiries/questions can be sent to Dr. Vejoya Viren, at [vejoya.viren@utrgv.edu](mailto:vejoya.viren@utrgv.edu).

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

**Charlotte, North Carolina, May 1-4, 2025**

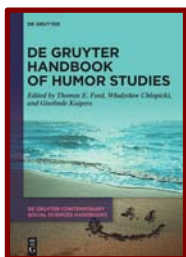
The theme of the 38th AATH Conference will be *Back to the Humor*. Conference discounts are available to ISHS members. For more information, visit the AATH Conference page at <http://www.aath.org>.

## Recent Publications

### De Gruyter Handbook of Humor Studies

<https://doi.org/10.1515/9783110755770>

**Thomas E. Ford, Władysław Chłopicki, and Giselinde Kuipers, Eds. (2024). *De Gruyter Handbook of Humor Studies*. De Gruyter. 636 pp., ISBN: 978-3-1107-5573-2; E-ISBN: 978-3-1107-5577-0**



*From the Publisher:* The *De Gruyter Handbook of Humor Studies* consolidates the cumulative contributions in theory and research on humor from 57 international scholars representing 21 different countries in the widest possible diversity of disciplines. It organizes research in a unique conceptual framework addressing two broad themes: the Essence of Humor and the Functions of Humor. Furthermore, scholars of humor have recognized that humor is not only a universal human experience, but is also inherently social, shared among people and woven into the fabric of nearly every type of interpersonal relationship.

Scholars across all academic disciplines have addressed questions about the essence and functions of humor at different levels of analysis relating to how narrowly or broadly they conceptualize the social context of humor. Accordingly, the editors have organized each broad thematic section into three subsections defined by level of analysis. The book first addresses questions about individual psychological

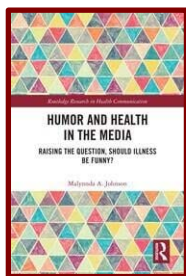
processes, then discusses text properties, and finally moves to questions involving broader conceptualizations of the social context addressing humor and social relations, as well as humor and culture.

By providing a comprehensive review of foundational work as well as new research and theoretical advancements across academic disciplines, the *De Gruyter Handbook of Humor Studies* will serve as the foremost authoritative research handbook for experienced humor scholars as well as an essential starting point for newcomers to the field, such as graduate students seeking to conduct their own research on humor. Further, by highlighting the interdisciplinary interest of new and emerging areas of research the book identifies and defines directions for future research for scholars from every discipline that contributes to our understanding of humor.

## Humor and Health in the Media

<https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003356745>

**Malynda A. Johnson (2024).** *Humor and Health in the Media: Raising the Question, Should Illness be Funny?* Routledge. 214 pp., ISBN: 978-1-0324-0631-2; E-ISBN: 978-1-0033-5674-5



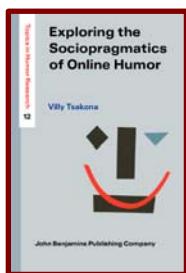
*From the Publisher:* Examining popular media portrayals of various health topics, this book offers a critical analysis of how those mediated messages can impact, for good or ill, people's physical and mental health. Looking specifically at how various depictions of health topics have both aided in the normalization of health topics such as neurodiversity and HIV while also critiquing the dissemination of misinformation on these same topics, this book offers insight into the ways in which humorous content can both help and hurt. The author draws on a critical analysis of popular media including shows, social media, and stand-up specials, as well as interviews with those who use humor within health settings, such as Red Nose

Docs, comedians who focus on their own health issues. This insightful study will interest scholars and students of health in popular culture as well as health communication, media studies, public health administration, and health policy.

## Exploring the Sociopragmatics of Online Humor

<https://doi.org/10.1075/thr.12>

**Villy Tsakona (2024).** *Exploring the Sociopragmatics of Online Humor.* John Benjamins. 264 pp., ISBN: 978-9-0272-1494-2; E-ISBN: 978-9-0272-4679-0



*From the Publisher:* This monograph explores the diverse sociopragmatic functions and meanings of humorous discourse in various online contexts affecting its use. To this end, an analytical model is proposed which takes into consideration the aspects of context which are relevant to the production and reception of humor, and hence to its sociopragmatic analysis. The model is employed for addressing research questions such as the following: Why may an utterance/text be intended and perceived as humorous by some speakers and fail for others? How and why may speakers attempt to regulate language use through humor? Why and how may the same humorous utterance/text engender diverse and contradictory interpretations? How do speakers create social groups and project social identities through humor? How could the sociopragmatic analysis of humor form the basis for teaching about humor within a critical literacy framework?

## 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 March 2024. If you have a recent publication, let us know. We will include it in a future newsletter.

Abrams, L., & Therriault, D. J. (2024). Hearing laughter: A prescription for anxiety relief. *Anxiety, Stress & Coping: An International Journal*. <https://doi-org/10.1080/10615806.2024.2373448>

Adegoju, A. (2024). Food metaphors and humour in Nigerian online interaction. *World Englishes*, 43(3), 439–455. <https://doi-org/10.1111/weng.12657>

- Adiga, P. G., & K., P. (2024). Humor, Politics and the Global North: A Systematic Literature Review of Internet Memes. *Internet Reference Services Quarterly*, 28(3), 263–281. <https://doi-org/10.1080/10875301.2024.2335920>
- Akhapkina, D. (2024). “A devout and holy sermon”: sources of parody in *sermons joyeux*. *HUMOR: International Journal of Humor Research*, 37(2), 217–235. <https://doi.org/10.1515/humor-2023-0118>
- Altan-Atalay, A., & Fatih Boluvat, M. (2024). Cognitive flexibility and depression: The moderator roles of humor styles. *Current Psychology: A Journal for Diverse Perspectives on Diverse Psychological Issues*. <https://doi-org/10.1007/s12144-024-05931-8>
- Amangalieva, G., Ivic-Britt, R. K., Carmack, H. J., & Holiday, S. (2024). Belonging, affirmation, safety, and efficacy (base): An integrative model for shame resilience, social support, and humor in r/hemorrhoid. *Health Communication*. <https://doi-org/10.1080/10410236.2024.2386714>
- Annamoradnejad, I., & Zoghi, G. (2024). ColBERT: Using BERT sentence embedding in parallel neural networks for computational humor. *Expert Systems with Applications*, 249, N.PAG. <https://doi-org/10.1016/j.eswa.2024.123685>
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- Baumgartner, J. C. (2024). A new age of political humor. *Communication Review*, 27(3), 239–241. <https://doi-org/10.1080/10714421.2024.2359800>
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- Bolaños, D. F., & Pereira, M. (2024). Laughter, humor, and signifying chains in replacing names with nicknames by adolescents in two Latin American cities. *Psychoanalysis, Culture & Society*. <https://doi-org/10.1057/s41282-024-00446-4>
- Budnitsky, S. (2024). State pranking: deceit and humor in Russia-West relations. *Post-Soviet Affairs*, 1–19. <https://doi-org/10.1080/1060586x.2024.2374191>
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