The Humorous Times

Newsletter of the International Society for Humor Studies

Fall/Winter 2024

Association News

2024 ISHS Membership and Finances

Martin Lampert, ISHS Secretary-Treasurer



The International Society for Humor Studies had a good year in 2024 with 186 affiliates, including 170 new and returning members and 16 additional Board Members and Consulting Editors of the journal, *HUMOR*. At the end of 2024, the Society was financially sound with \$86,337.60 in unaudited revenue, including \$75,057.52 carried over from 2023 and \$12,818.38 from 2024 membership dues.

Operating expenses for 2024 included \$1,174.35 for online services and bank fees, \$779.00 for legal services and nonprofit administration, \$204.50 for service awards, and \$9,640.00 for membership subscriptions to *HUMOR: International Journal for Humor Research*. Revenue over expenses by the end of 2024 is estimated to be \$76,078.05.

Between January and November 2024, ISHS received \$774.59 from members for the ISHS Scholarship Fund plus an additional \$5,000 gift from Don Nilsen for future Don and Alleen Nilson Young Scholar (DANYS) Awards. In total, the scholarship fund currently holds \$24,086.75. At each ISHS Conference, the Society presents typically three to four graduate student awards. This past spring, the Society presented two student awards as part of its April online conference, including the DANYS Award. As always, I would like to thank the members who made contributions to the ISHS Scholarship Fund, and I would welcome others to make donations with their 2024 membership applications for future scholarships. Volume 37, Issue 4

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Next Issue

The next *Humorous Times* is due in Spring 2025. Send items for the next issue to humorstudies@outlook.com.

You can join the Society or renew your ISHS membership for 2025 on the Society's website at https://humorstudies.org. On the membership page, you will find a link that will allow you to renew your membership. On the online application form, you will see the Society's current fee structure, which offers membership with either an online or print subscription to the Society's journal, *HUMOR*. For the current year, *HUMOR* will continue to publish original research articles, and print subscribers will receive online access to the 2025 *HUMOR* book reviews, which are published only online. Membership is still \$69 with an online subscription and \$130 with a print subscription. Subscribing members who join or renew by January 31 can take a \$5.00 discount. Please note that renewal includes a 3% plus \$1 processing fee. If you do not wish to receive the journal but do wish to be a member to receive our other benefits, you can still join ISHS as an Associate member for just \$30 plus processing.

Finally, thank you for your support of the International Society for Humor Studies. Your participation in ISHS helps to advance the importance of humor research and, as always, is greatly appreciated.

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.

For accommodations, participants will have an opportunity to stay onsite in the 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 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 <u>https://ishs2025.pl/</u>, 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 <u>info@ishs2025.pl</u>. Conference updates will also be posted on the ISHS website at <u>http://www.humorstudies.org</u> and on the Society's Facebook, Instagram, and X pages.

Call for Book Contributions

Conservative Camp

Darin DeWitt and Nicole Seymour invite contributions for an edited volume titled *Conservative Camp*, on which they are working with University of Minnesota Press' Humanities Editor Leah Pennywark. This volume seeks to explain how camp aesthetics, long associated with the progressive Left and with queer communities, have recently been appropriated by conservative movements, particularly by homophobic and transphobic figures on the Right. Key to their approach will be to hold open the possibility that conservative actors might engage in "deliberate" rather than just "naive" camp, to employ Sontag's famous distinction, and that conservative audiences genuinely enjoy, even revel in, campy performance. They are looking to assemble a set of essays that engage with these developments in historical, national, and/or comparative contexts.

The editors invite proposals for consideration to be submitted to Darin DeWitt at <u>darin.dewitt@csulb.edu</u> and Nicole Seymour at <u>nseymour@fullerton.edu</u> by December 31, 2024. Proposals should include: (1) full name of author(s), (2) proposed chapter title, (3) 300-word abstract, and (4) a short (100–150 word) professional biography. For more details, please contact the editors or review the full CFP: <u>https://call-for-papers.sas.upenn.edu/cfp/2024/10/31/conservative-camp</u>

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 <u>HRC@tamuc.edu</u>. For more information, visit the <u>HRC Conference Website</u>.

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 <u>alexander.cothren@flinders.edu.au</u>. For additional information, you can visit the AHSN website at <u>https://ahsnhumourstudies.org/annual-conference</u>.

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.

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 <u>http://www.aath.org</u>.

Recent Publications

In on the Joke: The Ethics of Humor and Comedy https://doi.org/10.1515/9783110759853

Wilk, Thomas Wilk & Steven Gimbel (2024). *In on the Joke: The Ethics of Humor and Comedy*. De Gruyter. 144 pp., ISBN: 9783110759754; E-ISBN: 9783110759853 2024



From the Publisher: Who is morally permitted to tell jokes about Jews? Poles? Women? Only those in the group? Only those who would be punching up? Anyone, since they are just jokes? All of the standard approaches are too broad or too narrow. *In on the Joke* provides a more sophisticated approach according to which each person possesses "joke capital" that can serve as "comic insurance" covering certain jokes in certain contexts. When Bob tells a joke about Jews, we can never know exactly what Bob is intending since we cannot see inside Bob's mind. But we could reasonably infer, if we knew Bob himself was Jewish, if he worked tirelessly for Jewish causes, or was a card-carrying Neo-Nazi. Each would affect his joke capital, and, in

certain circumstances, we would have a moral standing to demand to see his ledger to see how much joke capital he had with respect to Jews. The permissibility of that joke depends upon four factors: the joke, the teller of the joke, the audience, and the setting. The view developed in *In on the Joke* is the only view that clearly explains how each of these components work together in an integrated, effective ethic of humor.

Humor and Masculinity in U.S. Fiction: Intersections, Performances, and Functions https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003472964

Joseph L. Coulombe (2025). *Humor and Masculinity in U.S. Fiction: Intersections, Performances, and Functions.* Routledge. 172 pp., ISBN: 978-1-0327-5214-3; E-ISBN: 978-1-0034-7296-4



From the Publisher: Humor and Masculinity in U.S. Fiction offers a pragmatic and theoretically informed model for analyzing how humor and gender intersect in key U.S. texts, bringing much-needed attention to the complex ways that humor can support and/or subvert reductive masculine codes and behaviors. Its argument builds upon three major humor theories – the incongruity theory, superiority theory, and relief theory – to analyze how humor is used to negotiate the shifting constructions of masculinity and manhood in American culture and literature. Focusing on explicit textual references to joking, pranks, and laughter, Humor and Masculinity in U.S. Fiction offers well-supported, original

interpretations of works by Mark Twain, Owen Wister, Dorothy Parker, Zora Neale Hurston, Joseph Heller, Philip Roth, and Sherman Alexie. The primary goal of *Humor and Masculinity in U.S. Fiction* is to understand the multiple ways that humor performs and interrogates masculinity in seminal U.S. texts.

Humor and Environmental Education https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003582120

Constance Russell, C., Patrick Chandler, P., & Justin Dillon, Eds. (2025). *Humour and Environmental Education*. Routledge. 202 pp., ISBN: 978-1-0329-4873-7; E-ISBN: 9-781-0035-8212-0



From the Publisher: This book illustrates how humour can be a powerful tool for environmental education. Hailing from eight different countries, the authors' inquiries are grounded in a range of sites of learning and focus on different comedic forms, offering a variety of perspectives on the ways humour features, or could feature, in environmental education. The chapters adopt an array of methodological approaches and theoretical frames, drawing not only on environmental education research and humour studies, but also scholarship in affect theory, antiracist and Indigenous education, climate change communication, critical pedagogy, ecocriticism and language arts education, feminist theory,

human– animal relations, media studies, new materialisms, philosophy, psychology, public pedagogy, science education, and social movement studies. Many of the topics discussed in this volume necessitated multi- or interdisciplinary inquiries and pedagogies. Delving into humour led the authors to push beyond the boundaries of their own disciplines and, for some, to form creative collaborations that took them not only into new academic fields but also outside their professions to work with actors, cartoonists, comedians, and game developers. This book was originally published as a special issue of *Environmental Education Research*.

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

- Akben, C., & Coskun, H. (2024). Humor supports creativity: Evidence that personality traits moderate the effects of humor styles on divergent thinking. *Current Psychology: A Journal for Diverse Perspectives on Diverse Psychological Issues*, 43, 33089–33104 https://doi.org/10.1007/s12144-024-06858-w
- Beck, D., & Spencer, A. (2024). (Un)Funny against all odds: The changing landscape of humour in politics. *Alternatives: Global, Local, Political, 1*. https://doi.org/10.1177/03043754241290911
- Bouckaert, Y., Vofrei, L., Jonczyk, N., Mertens, A., Soliman, M., Venz, L., & Loschelder, D. D. (2024). Is the joke on you? The impact of sexist humour and gender dynamics on interpersonal work outcomes. *European Journal of Work and* Organizational Psychology. https://doi.org/10.1080/1359432X.2024.2429850
- Brassett, J., & Browning, C. S. (2024). Lettuce rejoice in the downfall of Liz Truss? Humour, ontological (in)security and the politics of ridicule. *Alternatives: Global, Local, Political, 1*. https://doi.org/10.1177/03043754241293619

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- Donner, W. W. (2024). Laughing at ourselves: Professor Schnitzel and Pennsylvania German humor. *American Speech*, 99(4), 410–440. https://doi.org/10.1215/00031283-10867207
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- Duncan, P., & Strong, Z. (2024). Laughing with me, not at me: The importance of challenging stereotypes and misconceptions in mental health and neurodivergence. *Journal of Disability & Religion*, 1–14. https://doi.org/10.1080/23312521.2024.2441436
- Dutta, D., & Mohanty, S. (2024). Humour and climate change: a caustic look through Indian comic strips. *Journal of Graphic Novels & Comics*, 15(6), 960–977. https://doi.org/10.1080/21504857.2024.2374793
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