

# The Humorous Times

Newsletter of the International Society for Humor Studies

Winter/Spring 2025

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## Association News

### Update: 35th International Society for Humor Studies Conference

Kraków, Poland, July 7-11, 2025

*From Władysław Chłopicki, Convener, Jagiellonian University*



Preparations for the ISHS 2025 conference are in full swing! More than 200 people from dozens of countries across the globe have submitted their abstracts to the conference—which means that a five-day feast of presentations and discussions on linguistic, psychological, sociological, literary, political and other aspects of humor awaits us on July 7-11 in Krakow. Preliminary program is already

available on the conference website: [ishs2025.pl](https://ishs2025.pl).

If you are a student or have recently received your PhD, you might be eligible for an ISHS award. We strongly encourage all the eligible conference participants to apply for them and remind you that the award application deadline is May 15, 2025. More information about the eligibility criteria and the application procedure is available at <https://ishs2025.pl/student-awards/>

Besides the scholarly program, the conference participants will also have a chance to enjoy the opening reception, comedy night and joke competition as well as explore the surroundings of Krakow during the post-conference trips. The conference venue is located in a beautiful forest and overlooks the Vistula river—a perfect place for pleasant morning and evening walks.

The conference is graciously supported by a grant from the Priority Research Area “Heritage” under the Strategic Programme Excellence Initiative at the Jagiellonian University, for which the organizers are immensely grateful. The conference Organizing Committee cannot wait to welcome the conference participants in Krakow and reminds that the registration for the conference is open till April 30 at <https://ishs2025.pl/registration/>. A special registration discount is available to all current ISHS members!

### Update: ISHS Listserv

*From Martin Lampert, ISHS Executive Secretary*

In 2023, the ISHS Board approved the creation of a Society listserv, where members could post humor studies news and announcements. Over the last two years, Indiana University hosted our listserv under the management of Moria Marsh. Recently, the Society received a grant for a Google Workspaces account, which allows the Society to manage a number of online activities, including a listserv. In March, ISHS migrated its listserv to a new address, and members can now post news and announcements via e-mail messaging to [ishs-listserv@humorstudies.org](mailto:ishs-listserv@humorstudies.org). All current and recent ISHS members will receive these posts through e-mail. To ensure that these posts do not land in spam or junk mail, members should designate [@humorstudies.org](mailto:@humorstudies.org) as a safe sender in their mailboxes. If you renewed with ISHS using a gmail account, you can also view past

## In This Issue

Association News .....	1
• 2025 ISHS Conference Update	
• Listserv Update	
Call for Articles .....	2
• Special Issue of Behavioral Science	
Upcoming Event.....	2
• 38th AATH Conference	
Recent Publications .....	2
• Recent Books and Articles	

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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](mailto:humorstudies@outlook.com).

and current listserv messages by logging into your Google account and then accessing [groups.google.com](https://groups.google.com). Many thanks to Indiana University and Moira Marsh for their prior hosting of the ISHS listserv, and I hope that members will take advantage of the new listserv at [ishs-listserv@humorstudies.org](mailto:ishs-listserv@humorstudies.org).

## Call for Articles

### Special Issue of Behavioral Sciences: Humor Use in Interpersonal Relationships

Nathan Miczo (Western Illinois University) and John Meyer (University of Southern Mississippi) invite contributions for a special issue, entitled, *Humor Use in Interpersonal Relations*, for the open access journal, *Behavioral Science*. The goal of this special issue is to bring together research on the use of various kinds of humorous messages and theories of interpersonal processes in order to shed light on both phenomena. Completed manuscripts can be submitted for review through the *Behavioral Sciences* website at [https://www.mdpi.com/journal/behavsci/special\\_issues/84FY6786BP](https://www.mdpi.com/journal/behavsci/special_issues/84FY6786BP). The deadline for submissions is July 1, 2025.

## Upcoming Event

### 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

### Comedy in Literature and Popular Culture: From Aristophanes to Saturday Night Live

<https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003478058>

James V. Morrison (2024). *Comedy in Literature and Popular Culture: From Aristophanes to Saturday Night Live*. Routledge. 244 pp., ISBN 9-71-0327-6323-1 (cloth); ISBN 978-1-0327-6324-8 (paper); E-ISBN 9-781-0034-7805-8



*From the Publisher:* *Comedy in Literature and Popular Culture: From Aristophanes to Saturday Night Live* explores works of comedy from the past 2,500 years. James V. Morrison discusses works including those of Aristophanes and Plautus, Shakespeare and Moliere, and modern comic writers, performers, and cartoonists, such as Thomas Nast, P. G. Wodehouse, Charlie Chaplin, and Jerry Seinfeld, asking the following questions:

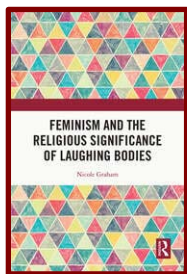
- Is comedy a mirror of our lives? Is it “funny ’cuz it’s true?” Or is it funny because it ignores reality?
- Should we distinguish between the plot of a comic play and the jokes found in it? Are the jokes just there to make us laugh or are the jokes as essential as the plot?
- Do memories of satirical portrayals on the comic stage displace recollections of the historical person?

By juxtaposing works from different cultures and time periods, the book demonstrates a universal recourse to certain familiar techniques, situations, and characters. This vibrant study offers a compelling analysis of comedy as a mode, form, and genre. It is an engaging read for students and scholars of comparative literature, literary history, media studies, and theater and performance.

## Feminism and the Religious Significance of Laughing Bodies

<https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003365068>

Nicole Graham (2024). *Feminism and the Religious Significance of Laughing Bodies*. Routledge. 196 pp., ISBN 978-1-0324-2955-7 (cloth); E-ISBN 9-781-0033-6506-8



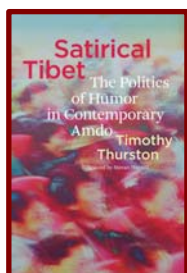
**From the Publisher:** This book identifies the significance of the body through a feminist reconceptualization of laughter as a means of insight. It positions itself within the emerging scholarship on religion and humor but distinguishes itself by moving away from the emphasis on humor and instead focuses on the place and role of laughter. Through a feminist reading of laughter, which is grounded in the philosophical and psychological works of William James, this book emphasizes the importance of the body to offer an exploration of laughter as a means of insight. In doing so, it challenges the classificatory orders of knowledge by recognizing and arguing for the value of the body in the creation of knowledge and understanding. To demonstrate the centrality of the body for insight laughter, and thus the creation of knowledge, this book engages with laughter within three thematic areas: religious experience, gendered experiences of laughter, and the ethics of laughter.

## Satirical Tibet: The Politics of Humor in Contemporary Amdo

Open Access Text available through DeGruyter Brill:

<https://www.degruyterbrill.com/document/doi/10.1515/9780295753126/html>

Timothy Thurston (2025). *Satirical Tibet: The Politics of Humor in Contemporary Amdo*. University of Washington Press. 236 pp., ISBN 978-0295753102 (cloth); ISBN 978-0295753119 (paper)



**From the Publisher:** Humor has long been a vital, if underrecognized, component of Tibetan life. In recent years, alongside well-publicized struggles for religious freedom and cultural preservation, comedians, hip-hop artists, and other creatives have used zurza, the Tibetan art of satire, to render meaningful social and political critique under the ever-present eye of the Chinese state. Timothy Thurston's *Satirical Tibet* offers the first-ever look at this powerful tool of misdirection and inversion. Focusing on the region of Amdo, Thurston introduces the vibrant and technologically innovative comedy scene that took shape following the death of Mao Zedong and the rise of ethnic revival policies. He moves decade by decade to show how artists have folded zurza into stage performances, radio broadcasts, televised sketch comedies, and hip-hop lyrics to criticize injustices, steer popular attitudes, and encourage the survival of Tibetan culture. Surprising and vivid, *Satirical Tibet* shows how the ever-changing uses and meanings of a time-honored art form allow Tibetans to shape their society while navigating tightly controlled media channels.

## 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 January 2025. If you have a recent publication, let us know. We will include it in a future newsletter.

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- Aliane, N., & Alshiha, F. A. (2025). Exploring the impact of prosocial actions on innovative behavior: The roles of creative thinking and coping humor. *Journal of Mind & Behavior*, 46(1), 126–153.
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