

The Humorous Times

Newsletter of the International Society for Humor Studies

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Association News

Report on 35th International Society for Humor Studies Conference

Kraków, Poland, July 7-11, 2025

From Władysław Chłopicki, Convener, Jagiellonian University



The 35th annual Conference of the International Society of Humor Studies took place from July 7th to July 11th, 2025, at the Forest Hotel, in a picturesque neighbourhood of Krakow, Poland. The venue was surrounded by dense forest, and featured a castle, cozy conference rooms, sauna and some wild boars roaming around. There were 198 participants (183 participants on the spot and 15 online), among them 40 students and 46 ISHS members. The first day of the conference started with three Philosophy of Humor panels organized by Lydia Amir of the International Association for the Philosophy of Humor and four pre-conference seminars for graduate students, representing AI research, social science, psychology and linguistics (with 96 participants in total). The seminars were run by Tony Veale (“Why so un-Serious? Artificial Intelligence, Language Models and Computational Humour”), Dick Zijp (“Humour Scandals, or the Politics of Humour in the Public Sphere”), Andrew Olah (“Laugh It Up: Sense of Humor and Humor Interventions for Promoting Well-Being”) and Salvatore Attardo (“Doing Empirical Research with the GTVH: A Hands-on Approach”). A nice alternative to purely academic presentations was also offered by Jonathan Sandling at his “Lego Serious Play Workshop: Humor and Education–The Role of Humor in the Classroom.”

The conference was officially opened by the conference convener Władysław Chłopicki and the ISHS president Liisi Laineste the next morning. The plenary sessions included presentations lined up in pairs each morning, the presenters engaging in interdisciplinary dialogue: on linguistics of humour by Salvatore Attardo and Francisco Yus, political and legal aspects of humour by Andrew Bricker and Alberto Godioli, as well as sexual and gender issues in humour by Gil Greengross and Sharon Lockyer. Many of the conference panels were organized by the ISHS Special Interest Groups: Humour and AI, Humour and the Global South, Humour and Religion, Humour, Free Speech and the Law, Online Humour and Business and Media. Alongside the conference panels, there was a cartoon exhibition by the Ukrainian cartoonist Volodymyr Kazanevsky. The social activities of the conference amazed even experienced conference-goers, which included: the opening reception featuring the Krakow symbol Lajkonik (present there in its colourful self), a walk around the city with a visit to Jama Michalika café, a comedy night hosted by Adrian Minkowicz, a conference dinner with a speech by Nepali Professor Ram Kumar Panday, the awarding of Life-Achievement Awards to Martin Lampert and Delia Chiaro, and the initiation of the conference organizer Władysław Chłopicki into the Two-Timers Club, as well as a postconference walk around the Jewish quarter of Kraków. On the last day of the conference, the annual Graduate Student Award

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Next Issue

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

session took place. Samuel Clark received the Don and Alleen Nilson Young Scholar Award, and Eduardo Katz received the Christie Davies Awards. Til Knowles and Fabio De Ponte received Graduate Students Awards for their conference papers. The conference culminated with the ISHS Annual Meeting of Members where the conference organizer Władysław Chłopicki was thanked for his outstanding efforts and the venue of the next conference was announced.



2025 ISHS Conference Delegates in Front of the Forest Hotel, Krakow Poland

The HUMLIT Project

From Władysław Chłopicki, Convener, Jagiellonian University



Among the highlights of the ISHS Conference in Krakow, Poland was a session dedicated to current humour research projects, including HUMLIT Project (2025–2028), or more fully: *Developing Humour Literacy: Analyzing Production, Content and Reception of Humour to Bring Positive Change in the Public Sphere*.

HUMLIT is a Horizon Europe funded initiative coordinated by Władysław Chłopicki (Jagiellonian University, Kraków), past President of ISHS and the convener of the 2025 ISHS Conference. The project brings together a diverse consortium of academic and cultural partners from across Europe, with the aim of investigating humor in intercultural dialogue, education, media, and everyday interactions. Its goal is to foster humor literacy as a tool for strengthening social bonds, reducing prejudice, and improving communication across cultural and linguistic boundaries.

The HUMLIT team consists of scholars, practitioners, and cultural institutions working jointly on a range of activities: conducting interviews with humor creators and audiences, exploring humor practices in different cultural contexts, developing coding schemes for qualitative analysis, and preparing educational materials for teachers. The project emphasizes outreach, translating academic findings into accessible formats that promote humour as a force for inclusion in society.

The 2025 ISHS Conference session provided an opportunity to present the project to the international humor research community. Several ISHS members make up the HUMLIT project team, including current ISHS President Liisi Laineste and ISHS Conference Convener and Prior President Władysław Chłopicki. The team also includes present and past Society Board members Dorota Brzozowska and Villy Tsakona as well as several current ISHS members. The inclusion of so many ISHS members highlights the close connection between the Society and this ambitious international effort.

The discussion in Kraków underscored the significance of humor literacy as a timely and socially relevant research agenda. As the project progresses, HUMLIT will continue to share its findings and engage with both academic and non-academic audiences, strengthening the role of humour studies.

For more information, visit the HUMLIT at <https://humour-in-europe.project.uj.edu.pl/>.

2026 ISHS Conference

From João Paulo Capelotti, Federal Fluminense University

The 36th Conference of the International Society for Humor Studies will take place from July 6 to July 10, 2026 at the Federal Fluminense University, in Niterói, Brazil. The Conference organizers will be Viktor Chagas and João Paulo Capelotti. The Conference website, with information about registration, the schedule and the call for papers, will come online in Fall 2025 and will be announced on the ISHS Website and through the ISHS listserv.

Upcoming Event

Fall 2025 Symposium of the Critical Humor Studies Association

Online, November 14, 2025

The Critical Humor Studies Association will hold on November 14, 2025, an online symposium entitled, *Humor and the Right: Global Perspectives on Politics, Media, and Culture*. The symposium welcomes theoretical, methodological, or comparative work, at any stage, that emphasizes a critical humor studies approach and perspective. Symposium proposals can be provided online up until October 17 via <https://bit.ly/3Iyn0p6>. Symposium time via Zoom will be announced after the submission deadline.

Nineteenth Annual Conference of the Lighthearted Philosophers Society

New Orleans, Louisiana, November 14-15, 2025

The Lighthearted Philosophers Society will hold its annual conference at the Intercontinental Hotel in New Orleans, Louisiana on November 14 and 15, 2025. Details on how to register can be found at <https://www.lightheartedphilosophers.com>. For additional conference information, you can write to the conference organizers at lighthearted.philosophers@gmail.com.

Thirty-Second Colloquium of the Australasian Humor Studies Network Colloquium

Wellington, New Zealand, February 11-13, 2026

The 32nd Colloquium of the Australasian Humour Studies Network (AHSN) will be held at Victoria University in Wellington, New Zealand, from February 11 to 13, 2026. The paper submissions deadline is September 30, 2025. Paper proposals can be e-mailed, by September 30, 2025, to Lydia Chan at lydia.chan@vuw.ac.nz. For additional information, you can visit the AHSN website at <https://ahsnhumourstudies.org/annual-conference>.

Fifty-Second Annual Meeting of the Association for the Study of Play

Georgetown, Texas, February 26–March 1, 2026

The 52nd Annual Meeting of The Association for the Study of Play will take place at Southwestern University in Georgetown, Texas, from February 26 to March 1, 2026. The theme of the conference is *Imagining Futures through Play*, and the call for papers deadline is October 5, 2025. For more information, visit the TASP conference page at <https://studyofplay.org/2026-conference>.

Fifteenth Humor Research Conference

Online from Commerce, Texas, February 26–March 1, 2026

The 15th Humor Research Conference will be held online from March 6 to 8, 2026. The conference will include an opening session and reception, paper sessions, panels, posters, and workshops. Paper submissions should be sent to HRC@etamu.edu by November 15, 2025. For more information, contact the Conference Organizers at HRC@etamu.edu or visit the Conference website at <https://www.etamu.edu/humor>.

Thirty-Ninth Conference of the Association for Applied and Therapeutic Humor

San Diego, California, May 14-17, 2026

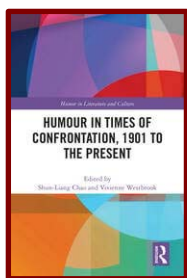
The theme of the 39th AATH Conference will be *On the Edge: Humor in the Hard Places*, and the Call for Papers deadline is October 31, 2025. Conference discounts are available to ISHS members. For more information, visit the AATH Conference page at <https://www.aath.org/humor-conference>.

Recent Publications

Humor in Times of Confrontation: 1901 to the Present

<https://doi.org/10.4324/9780429263866>

Shun-Liang Chao & Vivienne Westbrook, Eds. (2026). *Humour in Times of Confrontation, 1901 to the Present*. Routledge. 244 pp., ISBN 9-780-3672-0876-9 (cloth); E-ISBN 9-780-4292-6386-6

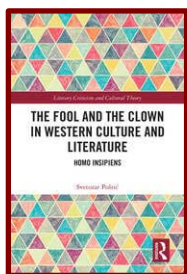


From the Publisher: *Humour in Times of Confrontation: 1901 to the Present* examines the various and surprising ways in which humour has been powerfully employed, through a wider range of media than possible at any other time in history, as a response to conflict. With no earlier century undergoing more diverse, more extensive, and more intense conflicts than the period in question, the last twelve decades provide a unique landscape to explore the farthest edge of humour: its darkest side. This book argues that such conflict has not only traumatically shaped the modern psyche but created a fertile ground for humour to grow and evolve with the advent of new representations and technologies. The chapters in this volume focus on international conflicts that have been reported widely through news media but seldom regarded as material for serious humour studies. Each chapter begins by engaging with a particular form of confrontation before providing a case study of how it has contributed to the creation, enjoyment, and/or sharing of humour via different media. This volume is a valuable resource to students and scholars of humour studies, modern cultural and social history, the history of technology, and media studies.

The Fool and Clown in Western Culture and Literature

<https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003608387>

Svetozar Poštić (2025). *The Fool and Clown in Western Culture and Literature*. Routledge. 214 pp., ISBN 9-781-0410-0148-5 (cloth); E-ISBN 9-781-0036-0838-7



From the Publisher: *The Fool and the Clown in Western Culture and Literature: Homo Insipiens* is a fascinating description of these two perennial figures in European and North American history, folklore, theater, literature, arts, and popular culture. The first part of the book separates them into ten different subcategories and recounts the most vivid and influential manifestations of different kinds of fools and clowns in cultural history. The second part singles out three European writers who have made a significant contribution to the elucidation of the concept of folly. William Shakespeare, Fyodor Dostoevsky, and Samuel Beckett have painted an entire gallery of fools, clowns, and buffoons, created not only to entertain but also to explore the meaning of human life. The most important concepts in the book are illustrated by captivating characters and tales that have made people both laugh and arrive at a deeper understanding of themselves and the world around them.

Humor and the Common Good: Why Humor is Important for the Good Life

<https://doi.org/10.1515/9783110760156>

Michael K. Cundall (2025). *Humor and the Common Good: Why Humor is Important for the Good Life*. De Gruyter. 176 pp., ISBN 9-783-1107-6011-8 (cloth); E-ISBN 9-783-1107-6015-6



From the Publisher: The role of humor as helpful in our individual lives has long been touted. Satirists and comics have also been known to play important roles in our society. But what hasn't been explored is why and how humor and mirth are important to the overall health of the public. This book explores the idea of humor as a public good—a good that promotes the health and well-being of the society and its individual members. The book begins with an exploration of the notion of a public good and then argues for a particular view of what a public good is. Topics covered will include the importance of humor and mirth to an individual's happiness, the role of satire and the comic in our world, and how these two pieces together work to promote the public good. Content will be devoted to covering what humor

is and how it works and why the way it works is also important to the public good. Ultimately, the argument for humor as a public good is to help grow the purview of humor studies more generally as well as provide and novel argument about the relevance and importance of humor in our public and private lives.

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

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- Avoaja, L. (2025). Ideological constructs through nominal choice in Nigerian stand-up comedy. *The European Journal of Humour Research*, 13(3), 235–247. <https://doi.org/10.7592/EJHR.2025.13.3.1047>
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