

Dear Member of the Australasian Humour Scholars Network,

I am writing to pass on some items which I hope will be of interest. Please note the preliminary announcement about the 2007 Humour Studies Colloquium and I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible there. Many thanks to Associate Professors Robert Phiddian and Haydon Manning of Flinders University for hosting this event. Many thanks too to Angie Smith of the University of New England and all involved in the Humour and Health Conference that took place there 27-29 October.

Best wishes,

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AHSN Web-site: <http://media.arts.unsw.edu.au/ahsn/index.html>
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NEXT INVITATIONAL COLLOQUIUM ON HUMOUR STUDIES – April 2007

The 2007 Invitational Colloquium will be held over 2 days in the week of the Easter break, at Flinders University, Adelaide, within the range Tues 10-Wed 11 April or Thurs 12 – Fri 13 April. The hosts will be Associate Professors Robert Phiddian (English) and Haydon Manning (Political Science), who form the Flinders Satire Cartel and proposal for presentations addressing satire and humorous critique are especially invited. Check the AHSN web-site for further details and proposal forms in the next few weeks. The Colloquium will feature a section for research students working on humour-related topics, so please draw it to the attention of anyone you know who would like the opportunity to present on their work.

CONFERENCE ON HUMOUR AND HEALTH, UNIV. OF NEW ENGLAND, “Laughter, Wellness and Engagement: Connecting the Dots” – 27-29 October 06

This Conference took place 27-29 October at the University of New England, Armidale, NSW, organized by Angie Smith of the UNE Health Sciences Department. It features as a Keynote Speaker, AHSN member Dr Carmen Moran, and was introduced by Mikey Robbins, who bills himself as Australia’s brainiest comedian. Full details including the program are at <http://fehps.une.edu.au/health/humour/conference/> (link on AHSN web-site).

BOOK ANNOUNCEMENTS by AHSN MEMBERS -- (Reviews by AHSN member Jim Bridges for Sundar book and ISHS member Joe Semple for Milner Davis book will be posted on AHSN web-site)

“Tragic Idiom ~ O. V. Vijayan’s Cartoons & Notes on India”

Eds. Sundar Ramanathaiyer & Nancy Hudson-Rodd, DC Books, India, 2006
Foreword by Bruce Petty (Australian cartoonist and film-maker)

261pp ISBN: 81-264-1235-6 Weight: 1000 gms (hardback with dust jacket) Size: 22 cm X 22cm Price: Rs 595 Order from: www.scholarswithoutborders.in www.dcbooks.com

This new book focuses attention on an important figure in Indian cartooning and social comment who richly deserves to be better known outside the sub-continent:
“This is a comprehensive collection of O. V. Vijayan’s cartoons, classified into 9 sections, backed up with extracts from his political writings & fiction.” Sundar kindly acknowledges in the book the support he has received from Australasian Humour Scholars Network (AHSN).

“Understanding Humor in Japan”

Ed. Jessica Milner Davis, Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 2006

ISBN: 0-8143-3165-3 paperback 249pp

Price: \$US29.95 plus shipping/handling (U.S. orders: \$4.50 for the first book, \$1.00 for each additional book. Foreign orders: \$5.00 for the first book, \$3.00 for each additional book.) Order online:

wsupress.wayne.edu or, Wayne State University Press, 4809 Woodward Avenue, Detroit, MI 48201-1309.

Tel: (313) 577-6120 Fax: (313) 577-6131 <http://wsupress.wayne.edu>

A book presenting in English -- for the general reader as well as the student of Japanese -- a collection of perspectives on the special rules and conventions surrounding the use of humour and laughter in Japan, fully-referenced with many Japanese-language examples and illustrations. It includes two well-received presentations made at past AHSN Colloquia by Prof Goh Abe (Oita University) and Dr Marguerite Wells (author of *Japanese Humour*, London: Macmillan, 1997). Contributors: Goh Abe, Jessica Milner Davis, Hiroshi Inoue, (the late) Masashi Kobayashi, Heiyo Nagashima, Shokichi Oda, Kimie Oshima, Joel F. Stocker, Makiko Takekuro, Rokuo Tanaka, Marguerite Wells

“This book is practically the first in the field and therefore it is a contribution in its entirety. . . it will be a very useful reference work for many years to come and will enable anyone whose research brings them into contact with humor in Japanese society to see the whole spectrum of ways in which the Japanese use and consume humor in their lives and culture.” Brian Powell, Oriental Institute, University of Oxford

“The purpose is stated in the well balanced title; it is to invite the reader both to understand Japanese humor and to have an insight into the ways in which the Japanese seek to understand and explain humor. The introduction makes it clear that it is a carefully selected set of essays by Japanese, American, and Australian experts on Japanese humor intended to render key facets of Japanese humor comprehensible to readers with an interest in but no prior knowledge of the subject. The essays that comprise the book present the latest findings in Japanese humor research. It is new, it is significant, and it is comprehensive.” Christie Davies, author of *The Mirth of Nations*

AUSSIE SCHOLARS AT 18TH ISHS CONFERENCE, COPENHAGEN, 2006, and REFLECTIONS FROM CONVENOR, DR MARTIN FUHR OF THE DANSK PAEDAGOGISKE UNIVERSITET, et al

Bruce Findlay and Maren Rawlings (Swinburne University of Technology), David Rawlings (Melbourne University), and Jessica Milner Davis (UNSW) attended.

Comments from Martin Führ, 2006 ISHS Conference Convenor:

"The very special thing about this conference was, where it took place, and at what time. We were able to handle the humor conference in Copenhagen, at a spot that was part of a large controversy between religions and cultures, and we were able to show that it is possible to have this inter- and multidisciplinary conference with so many topics where this controversy is just one academic topic among all the other important research topics."

From Catherine Evans Davies (University of Alabama):

"I really liked, as always, the interdisciplinarity of the conference. This time, Rod Martin's plenary and Victor Raskin's presentations emphasized interdisciplinarity as a specific topic. So, I think this is a very interesting way forward for the whole enterprise of humor research."

From Xiao Dong Yue (City University of Hong Kong):

"I tremendously enjoyed this conference (this is my first one), and I really liked it, because with 150 people you can say hello to everyone, and that's exactly what I like. Moreover, we come from interdisciplinary areas: psychologists, linguists, folklore scholars. . . . I was a full-time conference-goer for this time. I spent every minute here, because I want to make friends, and I want to initiate collaborative research with the folks here. And most important of all, we all believe in the importance of humor, and we hope that there will be more members to join us, to be with us."

[Extracted from *The Humorous Times*, Newsletter of the ISHS, Vol 19 Issue 3, ed. Ralph Mueller, available at <http://www.hnu.edu/ishs/>]

ALSO, check out plans for the 19th Annual ISHS Conference, Newport, Rhode Island, USA, June 28 – 1 July 2007, at the same ISHS web-site as Newsletter.