

The Humour Studies Digest

Australasian Humour Studies Network (AHSN)

November 2013



UPDATE ON AHSN 2014, NATIONAL LIBRARY OF NEW ZEALAND, WELLINGTON, 13-15 FEBRUARY

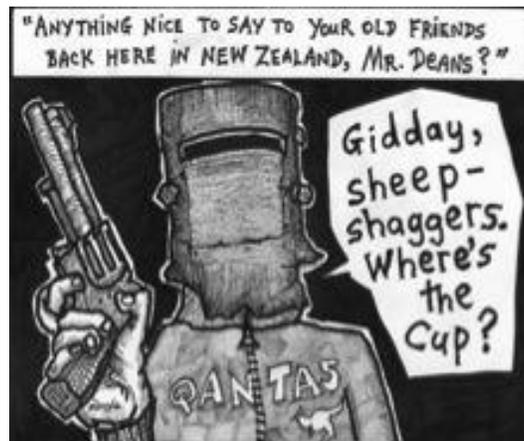
Mike Lloyd (for the Colloquium Convenors, Victoria University of Wellington)

By close of the Call for Papers, over 40 abstracts had been submitted. This is a terrific response and we thank everyone for their enthusiastic interest. So large a number has resulted in a change in timetabling our usual 2-day colloquium.

Rather than cramming everything into wall-to-wall parallel sessions, the Convenors are pleased to announce that they have been able to secure sufficient funding to organise an extra session and extend the event to two and a half days.

Please note that the **Colloquium will now begin at 4.00pm on Thursday 13 February**

2014, at the same venue, the National Library of New Zealand. Registration and Welcome Tea and Coffee will be available from 4.00pm until 4.30pm when the first Session will commence. After a short break, there will be a panel of three speakers from the New Zealand Cartoon Archive, including Ian F. Grant, founder of the Archive, who will give an overview of issues in New Zealand cartooning. The Panel will



Cartoon courtesy of Martin Doyle

conclude with nibbles and drinks, finishing around 8.30pm so that delegates can then dine and find their accommodation.

Friday 14 February and Saturday 15 February remain full colloquium days as announced. Registration fees are unaffected by this extension to the program.

For more details, the link to Registration and information about travel and accommodation options in Wellington, visit the Events pages of the AHSN website: <http://sydney.edu.au/humourstudies/>

Update your diary! The Colloquium will now begin at 4pm Thursday 13 February 2014.

All participants, whether presenting or not, must register in order to attend.

Any questions? Contact Mike at mike.lloyd@vuw.ac.nz

CENTRE FOR COMEDY STUDIES RESEARCH (CCSR), BRUNEL UNIVERSITY, LAUNCHED!

*Dr Sharon Lockyer, Director, Centre for Comedy
Studies Research (CCSR), reports*

The Centre
for
Comedy
Studies
Research
(CCSR)
was
officially
launched



on the 9th October. Many thanks to the 250 persons who came along to celebrate this important occasion and join in the entertaining debates and discussions. A number of important topics for future discussion and deliberation were raised, including changes in audience engagement with comedy, the relationship between comedy and ideology and the commercialisation of comedy.

The Inaugural CCSR 'Comedy Matters' Research Seminar Series begins on Wednesday 27th November 2013, 4pm-6pm in the Mead Room in the Hamilton Centre on Brunel University campus. Dr Louise Peacock (University of Hull) will give a talk entitled 'Sending Laughter Around the World'. She will examine the therapeutic nature of clowning, play and laughter on those who experience clown performances in difficult and potentially dangerous settings. Everyone is welcome to attend, but please register at:

comedy.studies@brunel.ac.uk

For those unable to be there, the seminar series will be recorded, so that once each session has been edited, it will be available on the CCSR website:

<http://www.brunel.ac.uk/ss/sociology/research/ccsr>

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE AHSN 2014 POST-GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS!

*Jessica Milner Davis and Mike Lloyd
announce our scholarship winners:*

**Bridget Boyle, Drama, Queensland
University of Technology**, for her
proposal,

*A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to
the Conference: Gender, Comedy and the
Body.*

**Beatriz Carbajal Carrera, Language
Studies, Flinders University**, for her
proposal, *Ineffective and inappropriate.
Designing a questionnaire for non-native
speakers to identify failed humour in
Spanish language cartoons.*

**Rachael Fabish, Anthropology,
Victoria University of Wellington**, for
her proposal, *"Yeah! 'We're nice
skinheads'! Ha Ha!": The 'Black Rainbow
story' as comedy.*

**Bronwyn McGovern, Sociology,
Victoria University of Wellington**, for
her proposal, *Mad rant or 'taking the
piss'? A case study of when attempts at
humour go wrong.*

**Will Visconti, Italian Studies,
University of Sydney**, for his proposal
Too Far West (Dangerous Curves Ahead).
Will has previously presented at AHSN
as Pip Muratore.

We look forward to hearing these and
many other fine papers at the upcoming
20th Colloquium of the Australasian
Humour Studies Network, Wellington,
13-15 February 2014.

TWO BOOK LAUNCHES FOR:

Jessica Milner Davis and Jocelyn Chey (eds.). *Humour in Chinese Life and Culture: Resistance and Control in Modern Times* (Hong Kong University Press, 2013).

AHSN members are cordially invited to attend either event!

1. An event of the China Studies Centre (CSC) and “Sydney Ideas”, University of Sydney. (Event supported by Inbooks)

When: 4.30pm-6.00pm, Wednesday 27 November 2013 (first event of the CSC Annual Conference, 28-29 November)

Where: Law School Faculty Common Room, Level 4, New Sydney Law School, Eastern Avenue, The University of Sydney (parking underneath accessible from both City Road and Parramatta Road). Casual parking rate (3pm-6am, Monday to Friday): \$6 flat rate (valid to following 6am); \$2 hourly rate (to maximum \$6).

Details and booking (free but required for catering purposes) at:
http://sydney.edu.au/sydney_ideas/lectures/2013/humour_in_chinese_life_book_launch.shtml

2. In Association with Australian Institute of International Affairs NSW (AIIA NSW) End-of-Year Function and Dinner

AHSN members are cordially invited to attend this event on Tuesday 3 December, at the AIIA NSW premises in the historic Glover Cottages (within walking distance of Wynyard Station and city bus routes and metered parking is available on Kent St).

Location: The Glover Cottages, 124 Kent St, Millers Point, Sydney

When: 6:00pm-8:30pm, Tuesday 3 December 2013

Hosted by: AIIA NSW

Entry: AIIA NSW members \$15.00 (Senior/student members \$10.00), Visitors: \$25.00 (Student Visitors \$15.00)

If you would like to come, please visit the AIIA NSW website, click on the event link and sign up as a visitor:
<http://www.aia.asn.au/nsw-events>

Please note: The event isn't up on the website yet but keep an eye out!

The program will include a short performance by one of Australia's most acclaimed new talents, Australian-born Chinese comedian Jennifer Wong, who will perform excerpts from her latest show, “Jennifer Wong is Spineless”. Performance and book launch will be followed by a Christmas raffle (prices to be announced) and the AIIA NSW's traditional Christmas Banquet, served in the courtyard. Books will be available for purchase and signing by Editors and Authors.

CLOWN DOCTOR CONFERENCE, ORFORD, TASMANIA, 14 Oct 2013

As usual **NO BLOODY SLEEP...**

Dr Peter Spitzer, Medical Director and co-founder of the Humour Foundation, reports:

It's always a great conference - the national family of Clown Doctors (And Clown Central staff) getting together for their annual conference. This year's event was in Tasmania at Orford, and the ABC covered it! Click below:



“Clown doctors meet in Tasmania for annual conference.”

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2013-10-14/clown-doctors-meet-for-annual-conference/5022066?section=tas>

Just one bunch of SuperHeroes from the meeting.

A Raucous Recommendation!

Every day, AHSN scholars study and enjoy wonderful forms of humour. Two graduate students, Alison O'Connor and Rebecca Higgie, got to know each other from opposite sides of the country by sharing beloved objects of study and humour. Together, they decided that this should be extended to all AHSN members!

This week's recommendation comes from Alison and Rebecca.

Their hot tip: **The Bugle Podcast**. This long running satirical podcast is hosted weekly by two British comedians from different sides of the globe: John Oliver in New York and Andy Zaltzman in London. The podcast can be accessed for free from [iTunes](#) and [Soundcloud](#) (though our grad students encourage you to donate to the independent podcast if you love it as much as they do!).

More info: <http://thebuglepodcast.com/>

Got something to share in the next digest? Send it to Rebecca at rebecca.higgie@curtin.edu.au



ANNOUNCEMENT:

10th International Colloquium of CORHUM (Association for the Development of Research on the Comic, Laughter and Humour)

**Co-organized with the EA 369 (Études romanes) Research Centre
At The University of Paris West Nanterre-La Défense (UPOND)**

Nelly Feuerhahn, CORHUM

Graça Dos Santos, Principal Colloquium Organizer

Colloquium Theme: The laughter of poverty (*Le rire du pauvre*)

Dates: 21-23 November 2014

Contact: riredupauvre@gmail.com

Website: http://www.humoresques.fr/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=408:rire-du-pauvre&catid=35&Itemid=59

Our screens, our newspapers, our streets and often even our fences are replete with the marks of a growing poverty that even wealthy areas cannot succeed in rendering invisible. At this time of global crisis, humour remains a reaction that can take diverse and explosive forms – even our email inboxes become receptacles for self-derision or laughter that borders on social and political critique. This is the context which the Colloquium “*Le rire du pauvre*” intends to investigate, while welcoming other approaches to the topic, in the spirit that emanated from the study day organized by the Department of Lusophone Studies at UPOND in May 2013, dedicated to popular comic figures in Romance language cultures.

Please note: All papers to be delivered in French.

The polymorphic shape of popular comedy recurs across contexts as diverse as literature, graphic arts, cinema, live spectacle, music and song, cartooning, TV, and even mathematics. Like laughter, it seems to involve artistic creation in all its forms. By popular comedy we mean to include equally the laughter of poor people along with that of the down-and-out who laugh at their own troubles (like the medieval peasant-jongleur, now reinvented by Dario Fo), and with lower class figures who deliberately provoke laughter (such as Zé Povinho in Portugal, or even today’s descendants of the iconic Charlie Chaplin), as well as figures identified with a comic actor and their popular audience (like Fernand Reynaud or Coluche). Indeed, these three characteristics are often intermingled. The laughter of poverty is thus to be envisaged both from the point of view of artistic creation and from that of its reception, by studying what is as much a form of laughter as a manner of social and political denunciation.



ANNOUNCEMENT:

ISHS 2014, UNIVERSITY OF UTRECHT, THE NETHERLANDS, 7-11 JULY

Message from the Convenors

Join ISHS2014!

Visit our web site at <http://ishs2014utrecht.nl>

Sibe Doosje reports:

We are pleased to inform you that from now on, ISHS2014 has a logo. It was designed by a young Dutch stylist, Maritt Schouten. She owns the company Studio '87 in Den Bosch. The red, blue and white stand for the Dutch flag, whereas the colors red and white stand for the coat of arms of the city of Utrecht. Of course you will also recognize the ISHS logo, which Maritt restyled into a somewhat different form. This form symbolizes that ISHS2014 aims at meaningful, personal and pleasant interaction, linking cultures.

From Conference News at <http://ishs2014utrecht.nl/2013/11/08/c3-ishs2014-logo/>

Want more like this? Visit the ISHS 2014 website and blog.

The annual conference of the International Society of Humor Studies (ISHS2014) will be held in the city of Utrecht, the Netherlands from 7-11 July 2014. There you will find out that the Dutch are a hospitable people with an international orientation. The conference will offer many keynotes, papers and posters, showing the whole palette of humor studies in the world. Alongside the conference there will be a humor festival in the city, bringing the wonderful subject of humor to the people of Utrecht.

ISHS2014 will take place in the historic **University Hall of Utrecht University** in Utrecht, a medium-sized city in The Netherlands with great cultural, historical and festive qualities. Utrecht is close to the main airport, Schiphol Amsterdam, and can be reached easily by public transport. The city offers excellent opportunities to start (or end) a trip to Europe, especially to folk from Australia or New Zealand.

Read the latest blogs on Publications, Humor and Utrecht and its University at the conference website.

Sibe Doosje

Giseline Kuipers

Jeffrey Goldstein (Co-convenors).

For more information, email Dr Sibe Doosje: S.Doosje@fss.uu.nl

UPCOMING EVENTS: SILENTS OF SPRING IN SYDNEY

Silents of Spring is coming to an end but there are still some excellent upcoming events:

11 November World War 1 Documentary *The Battle of the Somme* (1916) Monday at 2pm State Library NSW with soundtrack and pre-film talk by Graham Shirley, Manager Access Projects with the NFSA. Tix \$20/\$15.

17 November Buster Keaton's masterpiece *The General* (1927) Sunday at 2pm State Library NSW with live music by John D'Arcy. Tix \$25/\$20.

30 November Lon Chaney and the horror classic *The Phantom of the Opera* (1925) Saturday at 3pm Lindfield Uniting Church with live music by John D'Arcy. Tix \$25/\$20.

Inquiries: 0419 267318

More information at: www.ozsilentfilmfestival.com.au

ASHN Member Publications

Phiddian, Robert. "Satire and the limits of literary theories", *Critical Quarterly* 55.3 (2013), 44-58.

E-copy available from the author at robert.phiddian@flinders.edu.au

The Humour Studies Digest **The Australasian Humour Studies Network (AHSN)** **'We put the "U" back into "HUMOUR"!'**

Send newsletter submissions to our Co-Editors:

Rebecca at rebecca.higgie@curtin.edu.au or Jessica at Jessica.davis@sydney.edu.au

To subscribe or unsubscribe, visit the AHSN website (<http://www.sydney.edu.au/humourstudies>), click on "Subscribe to e-Newsletter" and follow the prompts to enter or remove an email address.

When contacting us, please edit your Subject line so it is more specific than "Re: Contents of The Humour Studies Digest..."