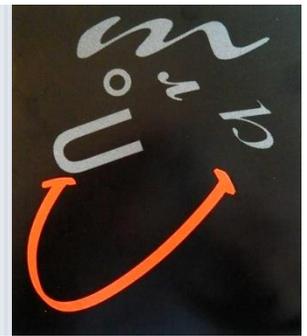


The Humour Studies Digest

Australasian Humour Studies Network (AHSN)

March 2014



AHSN COLLOQUIUM 2014 SUCCESS!

Jessica Milner Davis (AHSN Coordinator and Digest Co-Editor) reports

The AHSN Colloquium came and went last month! It was a whirlwind of good research and good humour. 45 multi-disciplinary papers were presented, with more than fifty participants attending. The program was the longest yet staged by AHSN, running for 2 1/2 days at the National Library of New Zealand (Te Puna Matauranga o Aotearoa).



Dr Paul Jewell (Flinders University) and **Dr Anne Pender** (University of New England) with our keynote speaker **Dr Moira Marsh** (Indiana University, centre).

Keynote and invited speakers included a special session on cartooning hosted by the NCA, a paper by Dr Moira Marsh (Folklore Librarian, Indiana University) on the cross-cultural topic of practical joking, and Ian F. Grant (Founder and President, NCA), on how cartoons have reflected Australia-New Zealand relations since the 1890s.

Most exciting of all? Our wonderful graduate students! 17 research students from 8 universities in Australia, New Zealand and Asia presented a total of 13 papers.

Media coverage included a 21-minute NZ National Radio interview with Dr Anne Pender (University of New England), available on

THIS EDITION

AHSN Colloquium Success! 1-2

Call for Papers:

Philament Humour edition 3

Postgrad Highlight

***New feature!* 4**

Supervisors! The Digest

Want Your Students! 4

Launch: International

Society of Persian Humour 5

Applications Open:

Humour Summer School 5

A Raucous

Recommendation 6

New AHSN Member

Publications 6

BOSTOONS Update 6

ISHS Early Bird Rego 7

Exhibition for ISHS

Conference Goers 7

podcast at: <http://www.radionz.co.nz/national/programmes/standing-room-only/20140216>

Special thanks must go to the Colloquium Co-Convenors Dr Mike Lloyd (Sociology), Dr Meredith Marra (Linguistics) and Dr Marco Sonzogni (Italian, Translation Studies), all from Victoria University of Wellington.



Co-Convenor **Mike Lloyd** (Victoria University of Wellington)



Morning tea at the Colloquium.

Next Year?

We have competing bids for the Colloquium in 2015! Our Review Panel is hard at work at the moment. Dates and location will announced at the end of March on the AHSN website:

<http://sydney.edu.au/humourstudies/>



A Plethora of Psychologists: L-R: **David Rawlings** (Melbourne University); **Maren Rawlings** (Swinburne University of Technology); **Angus McLachlan** (University of Ballarat, back to camera) and **Bruce Findlay** (Swinburne U of T and Chair, AHSN Review Panel).



The Yartz: **Peter Kirkpatrick** (University of Sydney) and **Lindsay Foyle** (pocket cartoonist and cartoon historian).

Special thanks to Bruce Findlay and Lindsay Foyce for their photos.

Philament, the peer-reviewed online journal of the arts and culture that is affiliated with the University of Sydney, invites postgraduate students and early-career scholars to submit academic papers and creative works for a forthcoming issue on the theme of humour. Possible topics include, but are not limited to:

- Humour and identity
- Laughter
- Humour and music
- Satire
- Parody
- Humour and politics
- Psychology of humour
- Humour in the humanities
- Humour and truthfulness
- Black humour
- Cultural humour
- Irony and sincerity
- Humour and emotions
- Forms of humour
- Humour and feminism

Philament accepts submissions from current postgraduate students and early-career scholars (less than five years post-qualification).

Submissions may include:

- Academic papers up to 8000 words
- Opinion pieces reviews (book (please contact us for our books for review), stage, screen, etc.), conference reports, short essays, responses to papers previously published in *Philament*, up to 1,000 words.
- Creative works; Writing, images, sounds, or mixed media.

Submissions should be limited to three pieces. All submissions should be sent as an email attachment in a PC-readable format to philament.usyd@gmail.com together with a submission form available from arts.usyd.edu.au/publications/philament/submissions.htm

Academic papers must include endnotes and conform to the *Philament* house style of referencing as detailed at the URL above. *Philament* will only accept submissions not previously published and not under consideration elsewhere.

Submissions close March 31, 2014.

POSTGRAD HIGHLIGHT

In a new feature on exciting postgraduate research, The Digest profiles Khin Wee Chen and his work on political memes and digital visual satire.

Khin Wee Chen is a PhD candidate at the Media and Communications Department of the University of Canterbury, New Zealand. His paper “Mediascape Mapping: An Ordered Approach for Identifying Areas in a Socio-political Humour Site in Singapore for Further Study” was recently presented at the 2014 Colloquium.



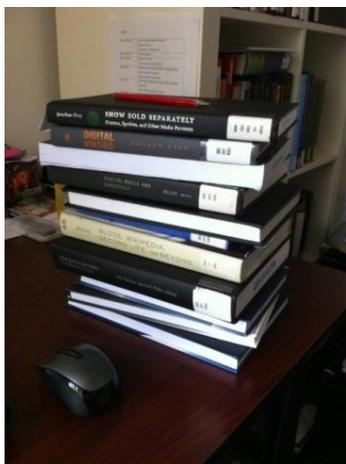
Your Eds asked Khin Wee to tell us a little more about his doctoral research.

“My research argues that political memes have emerged as a remediated form of political editorial cartoon, and are carrying out many of the functions of the traditional cartoons, and more.

After half a century of domination under the same political regimes respectively in Malaysia and Singapore, these two societies are undergoing a period of significant struggle for change. A democratising effect has been observed in how ordinary citizens use online memes to voice their dissent in these two largely authoritarian societies.

My study, using digital ethnography, compares the whys and hows of the usage of political humour, especially digital visual satire, in these two countries.”

If you’d like to speak to Khin Wee about his work, contact him at khin.chen@pg.canterbury.ac.nz



Grad student ‘light reading.’

ATTENTION SUPERVISORS! THE DIGEST WANTS YOUR STUDENTS!

Are you supervising a promising honours, masters or PhD student of humour?

We’re looking to showcase graduate students at the early stages of their projects. *The Digest* is sent to all AHSN members and can offer your students a chance to share their work at that critical stage in their research.

If you’ve got a student in mind, please encourage them to send us a 250 words summary of their project and we will feature them in the coming months.

Postgrads, you are of course welcome to contact us on your own volition.

Send submissions to your Eds (Rebecca at rebecca.higgie@curtin.edu.au or Jessica at jessica.davis@sydney.edu.au) and let us celebrate and encourage upcoming talent in humour research.



LAUNCH: The International Society for Persian Humour (ISPH)

AHSN would like to extend a warm welcome to the new International Society for Persian Humour.

Congratulations to the ISPH Founding President, Mahmud Farjami (Universiti Sains Malaysia, Penang), Ebrahim Nabavi and Yama Nasher

Yakmanesh, Founding Members of the ISPH Executive Board.

Visit their website here: <http://isph.net/>

APPLICATIONS OPEN: 14th International Summer School and Symposium on Humour and Laughter



Applications are now open for the 14th International Summer School.

Endorsed by the International Society for Humour Studies (ISHS) the International Summer School and Symposium on Humour and Laughter is a one-week intensive course on all aspects of humour: theory, research and applications.

It offers presentations and workshops by leading scholars in the field. As the course is primarily aimed at those who are at an early stage of exploring humour, most of the participants are research students, but the material is also suitable for more established scholars if they are moving into the area of humour from another discipline.

The Symposium takes place during the week, and is an opportunity for the participants to present their own work and receive feedback. In addition, provision is made for participants to make appointments with the lecturers to receive one-to-one consultations about their work.

When? July 14 - 19, 2014

Where? University of Sheffield, England, United Kingdom

How much? Early bird fees are: £250 for students, £300 for ISHS members and past participants, and £350 for others.

More details? Check out the website: <http://www.humoursummerschool.org/14>

Any questions? Contact this year's organiser Dr. Elena Hoicka at organiser14@humoursummerschool.org

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 month, **NO ONE** sent us a recommendation. As previously warned, this means your Ed Rebecca will rave about a beloved satire from her PhD.

Her hot tip: *The Thick of It*

This brilliant BBC show is a scathing satire of the inner workings of UK politics, particularly the spin machine of the Blair era. It features Peter Capaldi as Malcolm Tucker, the Government's Director of Communications (or, as he is better known, "the Prime Minister's enforcer"). This all swearing, all spinning media man is a brutal satire of Alastair Campbell, with a little bit of Peter Mandelson thrown in there too.

Your classy Ed attempts to eat her DVD box set of *The Thick of It*.

Check it out here:

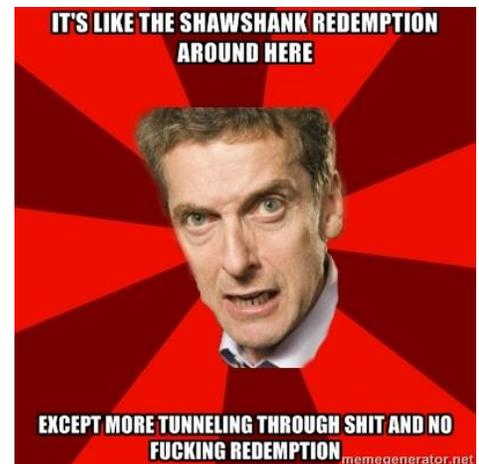
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006qgrd>

If you're more of a movie buff, check out its

feature length spin off *In The Loop*. The trailer is here:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VDc7-YHILA>

Got something to share in the next *Digest*? Send it to Rebecca at rebecca.higgie@curtin.edu.au or she will provide a catalogue of her favourite swears from *The Thick of It*. As previously mentioned...you have been warned.



While Malcolm was referring to a misreported leadership spill, your Ed thinks this quote best describes the final months of a PhD.

New Look for BOSTOONS: The mag!

Mario Barros has changed the design of BOSTOONS. There is now a special section for Australiasia, check it out now. If you are a cartoonist, submit your work!

Visit the website:

<http://bostoonsmag.com/>

New ASHN Member Publications

McCann, Ben. "Jean Dujardin, OSS 117, and the Art of the Spoof." *Essays in French Literature & Culture* 50 (November 2013): 69-85.

Visconti, Will. "Playtime at the Moulin Rouge." *Essays in French Literature & Culture* 50 (November 2013): 107-122.



ISHS 2014: Early Bird Rego ends 1 April!

Early Bird Registration ends on 1 April 2014.

If you have not yet registered yet, don't miss out! Fees go up by 50 euros after 1 April.

Early Bird Registration is 325 euros (ISHS members), 400 euros (non-members) and 150 euros for students. Abstract submission and registration can now be done at the same time to ensure early advice of acceptance. The adapted procedure is now on the Conference website: <http://ishs2014utrecht.nl>

Colours of the Kimberly: A Treat for ISHS 2014 Conference Goers

If you're planning to attend the ISHS Conference in Utrecht this year, you may have a unique (and unexpected!) chance to connect with Australian's Aboriginal heritage. The Museum for Contemporary Aboriginal Art is located in the conference host city. Its current exhibition, *Country to Coast*, features 'the colours of the Kimberly' with beautiful ochre artwork from renowned artists Rover Thomas, Queenie McKenzie and Paddy Bedford.

When?

11 January - 5 October 2014
(Arrive to Utrecht early before the ISHS
Conference on 7-11 July)

Where?

Museum for Contemporary Aboriginal Art
Oudegracht 176
3511 NP Utrecht, The Netherlands

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..."