

The Humour Studies Digest

Australasian Humour Studies Network ([AHSN](#))

December 2016



23rd AHSN Conference

1 – 3 February 2017

Ballarat, Victoria.

Update from the 2017 AHSN Conference Convenor

The conference program is now taking shape. It will include a diverse range of papers on humour and comedy all revolving around the theme for our 2017 meeting, "Humour: Here and There; Then and Now", being held in the historic town of Ballarat.

Conference Events

To complement the academic program, we hope to pay a visit to the Ballarat Art Gallery (walking distance from the School of Mines Campus of FUA) and get a taste of its excellent collection of cartoons. Another evening there will be a conference dinner, and, for those interested, an out of session opportunity to visit Sovereign Hill, the open air museum that accurately depicts Ballarat as it was in the 1850s, including the Victoria Theatre, the dirt roads and the old Cobb and Co. stagecoach. For more information, see: <http://www.sovereignhill.com.au/sovereign-hill/>.

Enquires

General conference enquiries:

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THIS EDITION

23rd AHSN Conference 2017 –

Update	1
Conference Events	1
Conference Location Map	2
Conference Timing	3
Scholarship Winners	3
Conference Registration	3

Humours of the Past (HOP) Conference and Call for Papers	4
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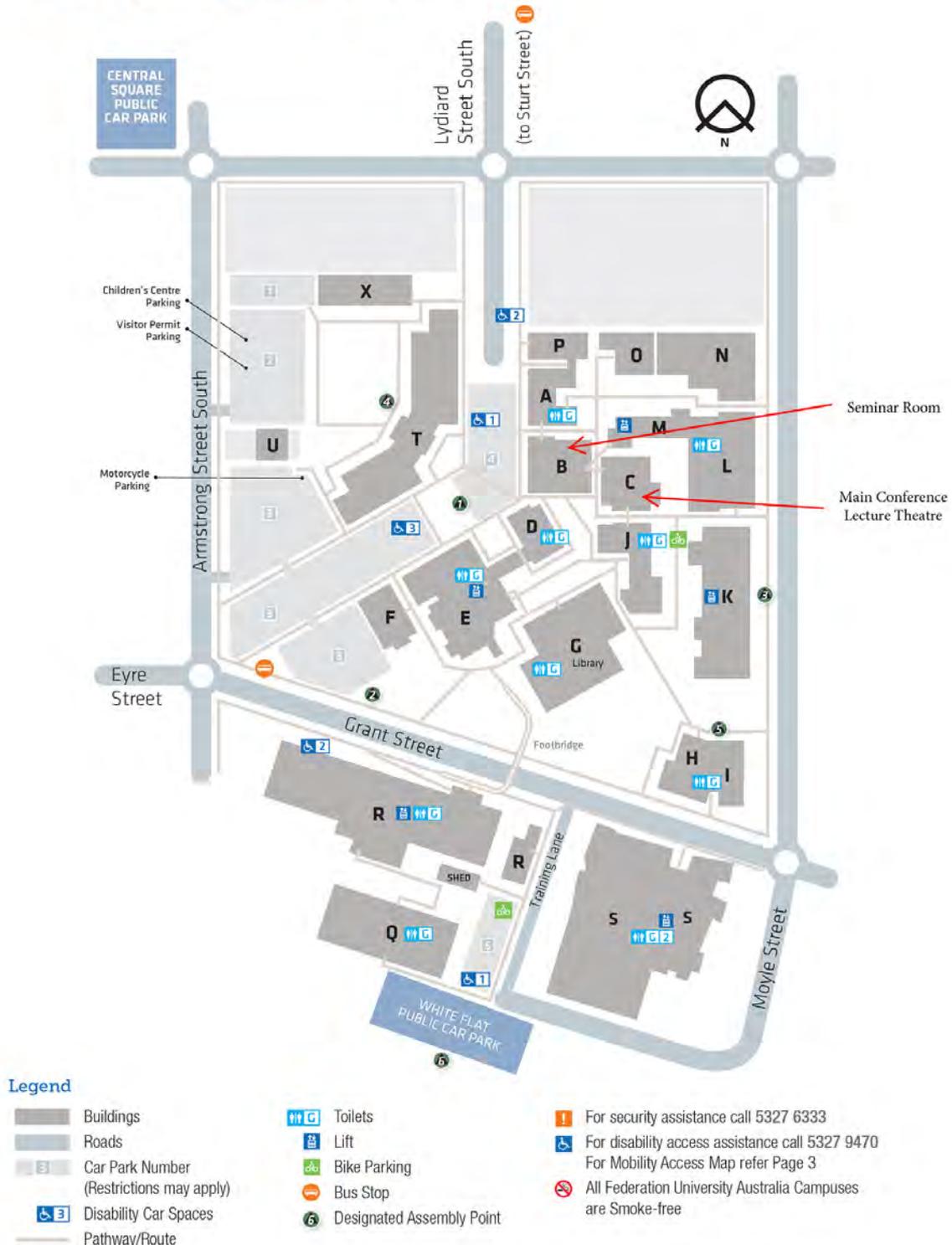


Dr. Angus McLachlan
Conference Convenor extraordinaire

Conference Location

I've prepared a map of the SMB campus that relates it to Sturt St and the main area of town (see below and it will also be on the AHSN website). It shows where our sessions will take place and indicates the building entrance to use for reception on the first day. There is more information on the AHSN website about getting around Ballarat, but please do not hesitate to email me if you have further questions.

SMB Campus, Ballarat | Map



Conference Timing

At this stage, the conference is likely to run from lunchtime on Wednesday 1 February till lunchtime on Friday 3 February (following which the AHSN Review Panel will hold its annual meeting). A draft program will be available soon on the website and to email to all registrants.

Scholarship Winners

Congratulations to our first three scholarship winners! They are:

Ms CAO Ying, Western Sydney University, for a presentation entitled, *Not Only for Fun: Humour and Characterisation in Chinese Sitcoms*

Ms Sung-Ju Suyu LEE, Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology University, for a presentation entitled, *The Farce Scatter Graph Chart: A New Framework Method to Evaluate Farce Films*

Mr Marty MURPHY, Western Sydney University, for a presentation entitled, *Breaking Bad in Your Underpants: The Use of Comic Distance to Soften the Blow*

Conference Registration

It would be extremely helpful if all presenters ensure they are registered for the conference in good time and the best time to do that (it takes only a minute or so) is in the next couple of weeks. Registration is easily done by visiting the following on-line facility with your credit card details handy:

<http://sydney.edu.au/humourstudies/events/registration.shtml>

And don't forget to book your accommodation! Information on hotels and transport can be found at:

<http://sydney.edu.au/humourstudies/events/information.shtml>

Looking forward to catching up with everyone in February and in the meantime, best wishes for the holidays.

Angus

Angus McLachlan

Conference Convenor

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Humours of the Past (Hop) Network

Announcement of Conference and Call for Papers

*Humour, History, and Methodology: A Multidisciplinary and Trans-Professional Enquiry
Durham University – 26-28 July, 2017*



The Humours of the Past (HOP) Network brings together researchers and practitioners with a mutual stake in understanding, interpreting and communicating humour of various kinds from particular times and cultural contexts. The study of humour as an approach to history, and history as an approach to humour, are developing areas of enquiry. However, there has been relatively little cross-disciplinary reflection on the methods researchers use to identify and understand humour from the past, and on what may be similar across disparate cultural materials. Furthermore, academic researchers have had only limited opportunities to discuss their modes of enquiry with practitioners who also have a professional stake in interpreting humour from the past, such as actors, directors, curators, and translators. To this end, HOP is holding a conference at Durham University, 26-28 July 2017 to encourage researchers and practitioners to share approaches. In addition to individual papers, there will be three roundtable discussions, exploring the verbal, visual and performative ‘translation’ of historical humour to contemporary audiences.

We now invite submissions of abstracts of not more than 300 words for 20-minute papers addressing, in their own way, the methodological issues that must be taken into account when studying humour from a particular past. Relevant topics might include:

- case studies of productive (or, unproductive) ways of identifying and/or theorising humour in a specific historical context
- the history and intellectual context of particular humour theories
- reflections on the uses and limits of particular theories of humour with respect to different historical periods
- studies of words for ‘humour’ and related phenomena in specific linguistic and temporal contexts
- the particular challenges of ‘translating’ verbal, visual, or performative humour for contemporary audiences
- historical case studies of humour censorship as a way into historical-cultural preoccupations

- the comparative value of studies of contemporary humour and comedy for considering more distant historical material
- investigations of the traditions of longstanding 'laughable' tropes (as applied to race, nationality, gender etc)
- studies of historical humour from particular theoretical vantage points, e.g. history of emotions, medical humanities, or theories of cultural value/ideology
- cross-temporal and/or cross-cultural comparisons of 'humour' and of humour theory
- case studies of successful inter- or cross-disciplinary projects involving historical humour

Please submit abstracts (300 words max) to humoursofthepast@gmail.com by 1 February 2017. We particularly welcome submissions of coherent panels of three linked papers. For further information about the network, see: <https://humoursofthepast.wordpress.com/> and follow us on Twitter [@historichumour](https://twitter.com/historichumour).

Organisers:

Daniel Derrin (Durham University)

Hannah Burrows (University of Aberdeen)



Hannah Burrows



Arts & Humanities
Research Council



Daniel Derrin

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The Australasian Humour Studies Network (AHSN)

'We put the "U" back into "HUMOUR"!'

Send newsletter submissions to our Co-Editors:

Michael at michael.meany@newcastle.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.