



HOLD THE DATES!

2020 AHSN CONFERENCE ANNOUNCED

*Wednesday afternoon—Friday evening, 5-7
February 2020*

The 26th AHSN Conference will be hosted by Professor Cliff Goddard, School of Humanities, Languages and Social Science, Griffith University, Brisbane; with the support of Reza Arab, PhD candidate in Linguistics, Griffith University. The general theme will be “Humour and Belonging” (i.e. embracing non-belonging, exclusion, etc) with a fuller descriptor coming shortly.

The location will be the Ship Inn on Griffith’s South Bank campus, in the city:
<https://www.theshippinn.com.au/> click on Conferences at the top. This has plenty of hotel and Airbnb accommodation nearby, many within walking distance, and ranging from budget through midrange to fully posh.

Save the dates and start planning – the Call will be announced soon, along with more details on the theme, and on travel and accommodation options. In the meantime, for all enquiries, email:

Reza at: reza.arab@griffithuni.edu.au

Cliff at: c.goddard@griffith.edu.au

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AHSN Seminar on Humour and Positive Psychology, Melbourne, 22 July 2019

AHSN will host an afternoon seminar at RMIT beginning at 2.00pm on 22 July 2019 where **Professor Willibald Ruch and Dr Sonja Heintz from the Department of Psychology at the University of Zurich** will present some current research on humour and its links with positive psychology.

Professor Ruch is a past President of the International Society of Humor Studies, and he and Dr Heintz have collaborated on several recent humour studies and articles. Entry is free but it will be appreciated if you can indicate your intention to attend, for booking purposes.

Watch this space and the AHSN website for details of the specific venue. For all enquiries, please contact Bruce Findlay E: bfindlay@swin.edu.au

[Willibald Ruch: "Current research on laughter, gelotophobia, cheerfulness, and humour interventions"](#)

Willibald Ruch is a Full Professor of Psychology at the University of Zürich, Switzerland. His research interests are in the field of personality and assessment, with a special focus on humour and laughter, cheerfulness, and smiling. In his doctoral dissertation at the University of Graz (Austria) in 1980, he developed a taxonomy of jokes and cartoons and studied their relation to personality. His more recent work, together with his research team at the University of Zurich, includes humour from a positive psychology perspective, the effectiveness of humour training programs and clown interventions, the ability to laugh at oneself, the fear of being laughed at (gelotophobia), and the measurement of humour. He is a past President of the International Society for Humor Studies.

[Sonja Heintz: "An update on individual differences and measurement of humour"](#)

Sonja Heintz is a senior research and teaching assistant at the Department of Psychology at the University of Zürich in Switzerland. Her main research interests in humour are individual differences (humour and comic styles, dimensions of the sense of humour), measurement (humour questionnaires and humour-related behaviours), and positive psychology (relationships of humour with character strengths and well-being, virtuous forms of humour).

Report by AHSN Review Panel Member, Lindsay Foyle

[Australian Cartoonist Greg Gaul, Sydney Exhibition, April 2019](#)

When Greg Gaul started cartooning for the NSW Teachers' Federation in 1977, there was no internet, email or even fax-machines. He would drive down to Sydney from his home in the Blue Mountains (about 2 hours west of Sydney CBD), go into the union's office in Sussex Street and get a briefing on the subjects they would like cartoons on. Next, he would drive to a quiet area in Darling Harbour (pre-redevelopment) and rough out some ideas. Then it was back the Teachers' Federation office to get approval. Once that was done, he would drive home and work on the finished drawings. When completed, it was another drive to Sydney to deliver the cartoons.

Born in 1944, Greg grew up in Coogee, Sydney, and spent a lot of time on a surfboard when growing up. After completing his Leaving Certificate, he started work at the NSW Water Board while studying drafting at the TAFE at Ultimo. He was also attending art classes at East Sydney Technical School.

"I was passionate about drawing and sketching all of my younger years", Gaul said, citing Emile Mercier - a cartoonist for Sydney's *The Sun* newspaper from 1949 until his retirement in 1968 - as his favourite influence. Bruce Petty was another.

He spent some time in Canada when he was 22 and met his wife Carol there. She was English and three years later they moved to the UK. Gaul took on drafting for an engineering company in Liverpool, where he started drawing landscapes to show what projects might look like when completed.

Arriving back in Australia, the Gauls settled in the Blue Mountains and Greg worked for Wunderlich Australia. At the time, his brother was working to support a Labor Party politician in Hurstville, Sydney, and he asked Gaul to help by providing some cartoons. It was these which someone at the Teachers' Federation saw and contacted Greg to ask if he would also draw for them.

Since then, he has illustrated for the Independent Education Union, the Tenants' Union, the Fred Hollows Foundation (for Indigenous eye-health), and provided book illustrations for McGraw Hill and the Federation Press, as well as technical drawings and graphics for various clients, including the Welfare Rights Centre and the Immigration Advice and Rights Centre. He also has done engineering drawings for Blue Mountains Council.

Independent Education Union officer Peter Bishop said Greg's cartooning work often succeeded by "cutting through the verbiage" with a strong direct message.

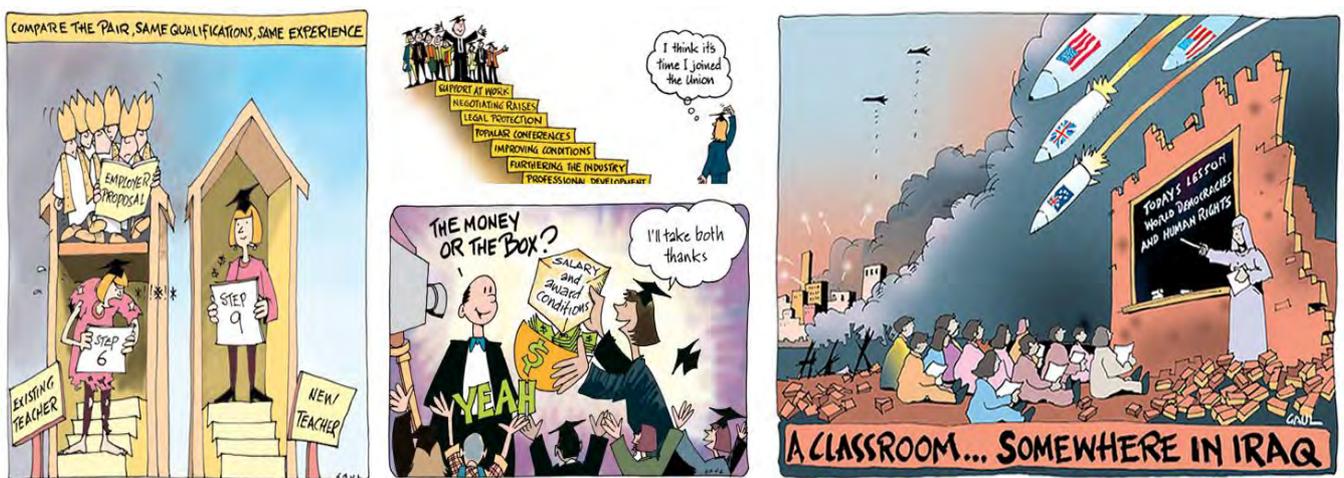
Gaul's works have just featured in a retrospective exhibition at The Corner Gallery in inner Sydney suburb of Stanmore which finished on 8 April. It followed his career chronologically and include timelines of events and campaigns that shaped public education.

Owner gallery, Philip Bell, decided to celebrate his good friend's 40-year career by working with him to curate a representative selection of his cartoons. "This exhibition would be of interest to many teachers who have admired and chuckled at Greg's creations over the years", Bell said. "Few Australian cartoonists/illustrators are as widely seen as he has been, principally through Federation's publications."

Gaul draws and paints all the time as he travels around. Bell said, "He only ever changes his car when the boot and back seat of the old one is totally full of drawings and art materials". "I'm still drawing for various mobs" said Gaul. "But mostly semi-retired now". The exhibition was testimony to the enduring power of his art.

Lindsay Foyle

Some of Gaul's Retrospective Exhibition work





International Humour Studies Events

19th International Summer School on Humour and Laughter, Bonn, 1-6 July 2019

The 19th International Summer School and Symposium on Humour and Laughter will be held in Bonn, Germany, from **July 1 to July 6, 2019**. Maria Bley, Eckart von Hirschhausen, Lisa Linge-Dahl and Lena Strassburger will be the local organizers. For more information, visit the summer school website at: <http://humoursummerschool.org>.

2019 ISHS Conference, Austin, Texas, 24-29 June 2019

From Christian Hempelmann & Salvatore Attardo, Texas A&M-Commerce, Dale Koike, University of Texas, and Elisa Gironzetti, University of Maryland, 2019 ISHS Conference Organizers

The University of Texas at Austin welcomes you to join an international and interdisciplinary group of humor researchers for the 2019 Conference of the International Society of Humor Studies. We will discuss humor from its basic definitions to the latest research strands and everything in between. Plenary speakers will include Sharon Lockyer (Brunel University London), Janetta Benton Rebold (Pace University, New York), Tom Ford (Western Carolina University), Villy Tsakona, (National and Kapodistrian University of Athens), Nancy Bell (Washington State University), Béatrice Priego Valverde (Aix-Marseille Université), and Herb Colston (University of Alberta). The Conference will also include featured papers and panels, a graduate student award plenary session, and the Fourth International Conference for the Philosophy of Humor.

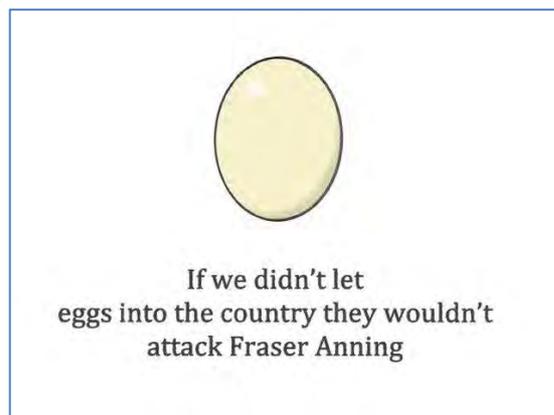
Submissions can now be made for academic paper, posters, 90 or 180 minute multiple presenter panels, 90 minute workshops focused on humor research within the arts, humanities, and sciences. Suggested topics include, but are not limited to cognition and creativity, public and private discourse, individuality and individual Styles, culture and diversity, health and well-being, language and translation, media and digital technology, and performance. Abstracts of up to 200 words should be submitted by **March 15, 2019**, through the online submission form. Acceptance notifications will be sent out by **February 15, 2019** for early submissions, and by **March 30, 2019** for submissions received after February 1.

You can find out more about the conference, paper submissions, transportation, and accommodation at the **Conference website**, <https://www.tamuc.edu/ishs2019>. For conference information, you can also write to **Conference Registration at: ishs2019@tamuc.edu**. We are looking forward to seeing you in Austin!

Members' News

Lindsay Foyle

Lindsay Foyle, AHSN Review Panel Member and artist, drew a cartoon for *New Matilda* about the stupid public comments after the Christchurch massacres made by Senator Fraser Anning (Queensland) and the “egging” they received. Lindsay reports the cartoon has been shared on Facebook almost 3800 times. Here it is, for members' appreciation and dissection.



Anna-Sophie Jürgens

Announcement of a New Journal with Scope for Humour-Related Papers and Call for Submissions

Dear Colleagues and adventurous Imagineers,

As you may remember from notices in this Digest, a year ago, I organised the international conference 'Imagineers in Circus & Science' at the Australian National University. Since then I have been exploring options in order to find and/or develop the perfect – that is, the most productive and geographically flexible – setting for creating a Circus & Science network.

Today I am pleased to inform you that I recently became the editor-in-chief of the English section of the online journal [w/k – Between Science and Art](#) exploring the many fascinating intersections between scientific and artistic endeavours. We are currently 'internationalising' the journal by setting up a peer-review and indexing system (in accordance with international standards) and a Youtube channel: *w/k* which was founded in 2016 by a professor of philosophy and literature and is already well established in Germany. We aim to expand internationally. My own English section of the journal – which we will officially launch in the second half of this year – will have some miraculous first sub-sections (and more to come!):

Popular Culture;

Arts & Technology;

SpaceArt; and,

Circus & Science.

In other words, *we will soon have our own Circus & Science stage* for crisp articles (ca. 2500 words) about *your* research, interdisciplinary collaborations at the interface of scientific research and creative imagination, and for bold and fascinating artsy-science and sciency-art circus adventures!

You find more information about *w/k* [here](#). I invite you to submit an abstract by 1 July for consideration in this new and exciting platform.

With kind regards,

Anna-Sophie

Dr Anna-Sophie Jürgens AFHEA

Feodor Lynen Postdoctoral Fellow (Humboldt Foundation)

Early Career Academic Fellow, University House

National Library of Australia Fellow

Humanities Research Centre | Australian National University

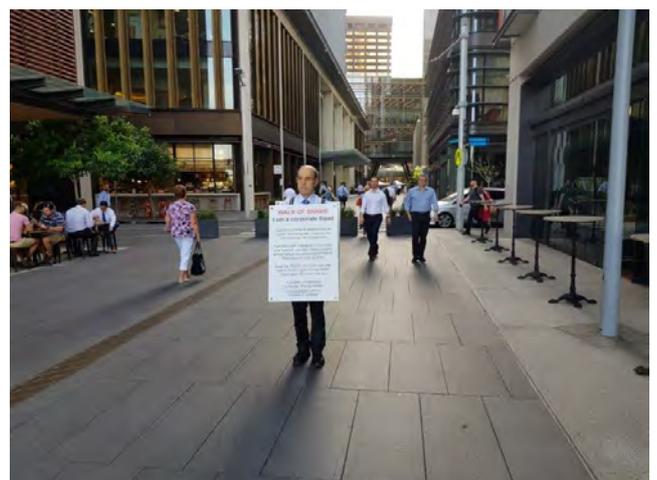
Rodney Marks

Rodney Marks, a founding member of the AHSN, is a longtime Australian comedian, working primarily in the comic hoax genre. His website is comedian.com.au, which he says is “merely proof of age”. He has published (with Benjamin Marks and Robert Spillane) *The Management Contradictionary* (Melbourne, 2006), an updated version of Ambrose Bierce’s famous *The Devil’s Dictionary*, and (with Jessica Milner Davis), the entry on “Hoax and Prank” in *The Sage Encyclopedia of Humor Studies* (Gen. Ed., Salvatore Attardo, 2014).

Rodney’s walk-of-shame sandwich board character has been circumber/perambulating Sydney's CBD for a couple of months now (see photos).

With Royal Commissions into banking and finance, religious institutions and eldercare, corporate entertainment bookers are nervously worried that now may not be the right political climate in which to hire comedians.

One recent confirmed gig of his in the insurance sector was cancelled due to such oversensitivity. The client still paid half, which is congruent after all with the inquiry into the “fee for no service” scandal.



Conference on Alternative Comedy Now

2nd and 3rd May 2019, University of Kent, UK

Organised by the Popular & Comic Performance Research Centre (PCP) and the Centre for Comedy Studies Research (CCSR), Brunel University London

The early summer of 1979 saw the beginning of the alternative comedy movement. Precipitated by the opening of the Comedy Store in Soho on 19 May and the formation of the group Alternative Cabaret a few weeks later, alternative comedy would go on to revolutionize the style, subject matter and politics of British stand-up. The new comedians turned established joke structures inside out, rejected sexist and racist gags and became part of the left-wing anti-Thatcher culture. Moreover, the current UK comedy industry grew out of the 1980s alternative comedy scene.

Organised by the Popular & Comic Performance Research Centre (PCP) at the University of Kent and the Centre for Comedy Studies Research (CCSR) at Brunel University London, Alternative Comedy Now will be the first major academic conference to look at this crucial cultural movement, forty years on from its inception. In addition to academic papers from a truly international range of speakers representing a range of academic disciplines (including theatre, media, philosophy, anthropology, and cultural studies), we will also have workshops and other contributions from performers. Our keynote speakers are Sophie Quirk, whose latest book, *The Politics of British Stand-Up Comedy: The New Alternative*, was published by Palgrave Macmillan in December 2018; and Oliver Double, whose next book, *Alternative Comedy: 1979 and the Reinvention of British Stand-Up*, will be published by Bloomsbury Methuen Drama in 2019.

Booking: The conference fee of £35 includes conference attendance and refreshments, admission to the exhibition and a ticket for Alexei Sayle in Conversation with Dr Oliver Double. An optional conference dinner for delegates will be held on the evening of Thursday, 2nd May: the fee for attendance of both the conference and the dinner is £60. Booking is available via the University of Kent online shop: <https://store.kent.ac.uk/product-catalogue/faculty-of-humanities/school-of-arts/arts-events/alternative-comedy-now-conference-2019>

Access requirements & dietary needs: If you have any access requirements that you wish to inform us of, please contact us via altcomnow@kent.ac.uk. If you have dietary needs, or issues concerning allergens, please let us know.

Accommodation: If you require accommodation for the conference, a number of rooms are available on campus. These rooms are available on a first-come, first-served basis, and can be booked via the following link: <https://kenthospitality.kent.ac.uk/KxBnB/> When booking, please enter the following promotional code: alt19. Alternatively, we can provide you with a list of local hotels and B&Bs on request. Please note, if you are vacating campus accommodation on Friday, 3rd May, you will need to empty your room of luggage at the start of the day. A secure space will be available for storing luggage for the remainder of the conference.

Travel: The Canterbury campus of the University of Kent is under two miles from the centre of Canterbury. Please see the link below for information on how to get to the campus, regardless of where you are travelling from. Maps of the campus itself are also available here: <https://www.kent.ac.uk/locations/canterbury/directions.html>

Alternative Comedy Now Festival

The conference coincides with a festival of alternative comedy at the Gulbenkian, the University of Kent's arts centre. Events include some of the best-known veterans of the 1980s scene as well as some of today's best

alternative comedians. A ticket for Alexei Sayle in Conversation with Dr. Oliver Double on the evening of Thursday, 2nd May, is provided for conference delegates. If you would like to attend other festival events, tickets can be booked here: <https://thegulbenkian.co.uk/alternative-comedy-now-festival/>

Alternative Comedy Now Exhibition

The British Stand-Up Comedy Archive (BSUCA), held at the University of Kent, has an unrivalled collection of material relating to the early alternative comedy movement, including publicity materials, photographs, press coverage, scripts, LPs, unpublished recordings, etc. This material will be arranged in seven different themes: The Comedy Store; Alternative Cabaret; the Comic Strip; the spread of the circuit; the Edinburgh Fringe; the small comedy club; and politics. Together these themes will tell the story of how alternative comedy grew into a rich and vibrant scene throughout the 1980s, and sowed the seeds for today's comedy circuit.

If you have any questions about the attached information, or any other queries, please email us at:

altcomnow@kent.ac.uk

Best wishes,

Sharon

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Peter Coleman: Vale an Australian Cartoon Aficionado

William Peter Coleman AO has died, 31 March at the age of 90. He will always be famous for being the editor *The Bulletin* in 1967 when Sir Frank Packer had an issue pulped. Coleman had written an editorial critical of the hanging of Ronald Ryan when Sir Henry Bolte was premier of Victoria. In the same issue, Les Tanner drew a cartoon on the same subject, depicting the Victorian premier holding a hangman's rope while saying he did not bow to mob violence, only to mob support.

However, Packer had not thought through the pulping of the magazine. The airmail deliveries continued on their way to Melbourne and other destinations. Consequently, the following morning the magazine appeared on news-stands all over Australia - but not in Sydney. Nor had Packer thought about the subscription copies. All had been sent to Australia Post, so many readers received their magazine in the letter box as usual.

The cartoon and editorial achieved even greater prominence when ABC television ran a story about the pulping that night, under the banner of censorship of the press, much to the glee of both Tanner and Coleman.

Censorship was a subject Coleman knew well. His first book, *Obscenity Blasphemy Seditious*, published in 1962, told for the first time, the full story of literary censorship in Australia.

Soon after the pulping Coleman realised he was no longer wanted at The Bulletin and moved on. He went into law and then politics and became very active in the Liberal Party. He even represented the party in the NSW parliament and then in federal parliament. Tanner also left The Bulletin. In 1967 he moved to Melbourne, joined The Age and became a well-known figure in the Melbourne media.

Coleman and Tanner were good friends and in 1967 collaborated on the book, Cartoons of Australian History. There are still copies floating around in second hand book shops. Tanner used to say, "Peter did most of the work". Coleman often said, "It was Les who did the bulk of the work".

Coleman became editor of Quadrant 1967, and held the position almost continuously until January 1990. He even remained in the role during his parliamentary careers. He also wrote and edited a number of books and remained an active member of the right wing of the Liberal party for the rest of his life.

Lindsay Foyle, AHSN Review Panel Member

The Humour Studies Digest

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.