

## Review Procedures for Australasian Humour Studies Network Conference Proposals

The annual AHSN Conference is designed to operate as a colloquium. It is an interdisciplinary forum for discussion and exchange of ideas. To ensure a sufficient basis for interdisciplinary rigour, proposals for papers and workshops are not automatically accepted. The AHSN has a standing Review Panel to cover the range of interests and expertise of the Network and it is the function of Panel members to try and ensure relevance and adequate standards for each conference.

The Panel considers all abstracts put before it and reserves the right to reject a proposal. Rejection will normally follow an invitation to revise with feedback. It will be a considered decision based on two reviews and the judgement of the chair of the review panel.

Each proposal is considered by at least the two members of the Review Committee most relevant to the topic proposed. Should there be a serious discrepancy in judgment, a proposal is automatically considered by a further assessor.

The criteria for assessment are:

**a) specific or general relevance;** Proposals directly relevant to the specified theme of the colloquium will be favoured, but all proposals must at least be relevant to the interests of the Network.

**b) coherence;** Coherence requires proposals to have an argument, case study or body of evidence that holds together.

**c) distinctiveness;** Distinctiveness means that the Panel does not look favourably on accounts of work already familiar to most or many participants, nor on those which lack substance or a basis in a field of knowledge. It welcomes work in progress, but not work that has failed to progress beyond a previous presentation, nor work that is already publicly available.

**d) feasibility;** Feasibility includes the intellectual or evidence-base scope of the paper given time constraints. The Panel also considers questions of undue overlap between papers.

**e) research students;** The Panel gives special consideration and academic support to research students who are undertaking projects relating to humour in their own specific disciplines or beyond.

Presentation format will normally be one of:

- Academic conference paper on the model of 20 minutes talk plus 10 minutes discussion.
- Proposed panels of conference papers.
- Professional workshops. Workshops allow for practical demonstrations of professional work relating to humour, but must include an element of reflection and critique concerning the relations between theory and practice. As they will normally need more resources and time on the program than other papers, they may be held to especially high levels of quality and relevance.