Message from the President

From Elliott Oring, ISHS President
You will receive instructions in November about voting for a new slate of candidates for office in the International Society for Humor Studies (ISHS) as well as for a series of constitutional amendments which require the approval of the membership.

You will be voting for the first time by logging on to a voting site—Ballot Box Online—that will automatically and anonymously tabulate the results of the election. Our Executive Secretary-Treasurer Martin Lampert is to be thanked (yet again) for organizing and initiating this new voting procedure and for his hard work in composing and editing the long and complex ballot and getting it ready for your online votes.

Although, the constitutional amendments have all been voted on by the Executive Board, as indicated, these amendments still require membership approval. On the ballot website, you will find a discussion of the background and rationale for each of the amendments. In this message, I would like to give a general overview of why these amendments were proposed and placed on the ballot.

The major changes to the ISHS Constitution concern the size of the Executive Board and the defining of those Board members eligible to vote on ISHS policies. The amendments attempt to reduce the size of the Board. ISHS is a numerically small scholarly society, and a large Executive Board is unwieldy and not conducive to the efficient conduct of Society business.

There is also the problem of distinguishing between elected and appointed positions. The proposed amendments attempt to restrict voting status on the Board to those who have been elected by the membership. Appointed positions (with the exception of the Executive Secretary-Treasurer), have either been removed from the Board or remain on the Board as non-voting members. Some of these positions—Conference Convener, journal Editor—are extremely important for the Society, but it is crucial to distinguish between elected Board members who establish Society policy and those who serve the Board by carrying out constitutionally defined functions. The Board believes that the amendments will help keep lines of executive and administrative responsibility clear.

Other amendments are largely a matter of eliminating contradictions, correcting oversights, and bringing the Constitution in line with ISHS realities. There is no need to address them individually here. You will find that they are adequately explained on the voting website.

I encourage you to vote so that we may set the ISHS on course for a stable and successful future.
Association News

2011 Membership and Finances
From Martin Lampert, ISHS Executive Secretary-Treasurer

The International Society for Humor Studies had another very good year in 2011 with 320 affiliates, including 305 new and returning members plus 15 Consulting Editors of the journal, HUMOR. At the October 15 close of 2011 membership, the Society was again financially sound with $46,319.72 in unaudited revenue including 23,179.72 carried over from 2010 and $23,140.00 from 2011 membership dues and fees. Operating expenses through October included $193.64 for printing and postage, 108.29 for awards, $250.00 for an online balloting service, and an estimated $18,761.00 for membership subscriptions to HUMOR: International Journal for Humor Research. Revenue over expenses by the end of 2011 is estimated to be $27,006.79.

Holy Names University also received an additional $1,597.00 in donations for the ISHS Scholarship Fund. From this fund, the Society made two $250 awards in 2011 to graduate students to cover their ISHS membership dues and their registration fees to the 23rd ISHS Conference in Boston, Massachusetts. As in previous years, I would like to thank the members who made contributions to the ISHS Scholarship Fund, and I would like to encourage others to make similar donations with their 2012 membership applications.

On the last page of this newsletter, you will find a 2012 ISHS membership application. On the application form, you will notice the Society’s current fee structure, which allows for membership with either a print or online subscription to the Society’s journal, HUMOR. Regular membership dues for 2012 are still $105 with a print subscription and $65 with an online subscription to HUMOR. Regular members who renew before January 31 can also elect to take a $5 discount on their dues, allowing everyone to renew early for just $60. If you do not wish to receive the journal, but do wish to be a member to receive our other benefits, you can still join ISHS as an Associate member for just $30.

Finally, thank you for your continued support of the International Society for Humor Studies. Your participation in ISHS helps to advance the importance of humor research and, as always, is greatly appreciated.

2011 ISHS Election
This Fall, the Society will hold elections for ISHS President and for two new Executive Board Members-at-Large. Members will also have the opportunity to vote on 14 constitutional amendments. This year, voting will take place online. Current ISHS members should have received from BallotBoxOnline.com an e-mail with a link to the Society’s online ballot box.

For this year’s election, the Society has two candidates for President and seven candidates for Board Member-at-Large. The Presidential candidates are Paul Lewis (Boston College) and Willibald Ruch (University of Zürich), and the Board candidates are Goh Abe (Kagawa University), Sammy Basu (Willamette University), Bruce Findley (Swinburne University), Gil Greengross (University of New Mexico), Moira Marsh (Indiana University), René Prwyer (University of Zürich), and Graeme Richie (University of Aberdeen). The President’s message in this newsletter provides an overview of the rationales for the constitutional changes. The candidate profiles and rationales for constitutional amendment may also be found on the Society’s webpage at www.humorstudies.org.

Twenty-Fourth Conference of the International Society for Humor Studies
Jagellonian University, Cracow, June 25–29, 2012

The Society’s 24th international conference will be held in Krakow, Poland, from June 25 to June 29. For information on Conference registration, accommodations, and paper proposals, you can visit the Conference website at www.humor-conference2012.info or write the Conference Convenor, Wladyslaw Chlopicki, at krakow.ishs@gmail.com. Additional Conference news will appear in the Winter 2012 edition of the ISHS Newsletter. If you would like to host a future ISHS Conference, you can contact the Society’s Executive Secretary at ishs@humorstudies.org for more information on how to submit a Conference proposal. The Society is currently accepting proposals for an international conference for 2014.
Upcoming Events

Talk by Barak Kushner at University of Sydney
University of Sydney, December 13, 2011

Visiting Scholar Barak Kushner (Fellow of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge), will give a Guest Lecture for the Australasian Humour Studies Network (AHSN), and of The Oriental Society of Australia (OSA), at University of Sydney, on December 13, 2011. His talk entitled, “Nothing to laugh at: Chinese humor and the image of Japan,” will argue that as a deep-seated barometer of social attitudes, humor is an informative historical set of values through which to examine the last century of Sino-Japan relations. Wartime and post-war layers of Chinese humor shaped an enduring motif of the guizi or “devil” image of Japanese soldiers. However, on the eve of the twenty-first century, these accumulated layers of representations of Japan have given rise to a marked change Japanese depicted not only as humorous “devils” but also as corruptible human entities.

SPSP Psychology of Humor Pre-Conference
The San Diego Convention Center in Sand Diego, California, January 26, 2012

The Society for Personality and Social Psychology will hold a January 26 pre-conference on the psychology of humor before its annual meeting from January 27 to 29. This pre-conference will have sessions on humor and emotion regulation, laughter and its relationship to humor, and a discussion on the contemporary theories of humor. For more, visit the SPSP website at www.spspmeeting.org or contact Sean Guillory, Dartmouth University, at seanguillory1925@gmail.com.

18th Annual AHSN Colloquium on “Varieties of Humour and Laughter”
Australian National University, Canberra (University House), February 3-4, 2012

Over 40 proposals were received for the 18th Annual AHSN Colloquium on the theme of “Varieties of Humour and Laughter,” taking place on 3-4 February 2012, at University House, the Australian National University, Canberra. The program is the largest ever held. Details of the timetable and abstracts are posted on the AHSN website at: http://www.sydney.edu.au/humourstudies.

The Keynote Speaker will be Christopher G. Rea, PhD, Assistant Professor of Chinese Literature in the Dept of Asian Studies at The University of British Columbia. He will speak on “Riding the Grass Mud Horse: Parody and Spoofing (e’gao) on the Chinese Internet”: “Back in the heady days of 2009, a ‘mythical beast’ galloped its way across Chinese cyberspace and into the lexicon of China-watchers, netizens, and cultural cognoscenti around the world. The Grass Mud Horse (caonima) looked as adorable as an alpaca but sounded like a big FU to the Chinese Communist Party and its legions of cybercensors. The GMH was soon celebrated as an icon of e’gao, a sub-culture of spoofing and parodic irreverence that in the 21st century has grown into one of the biggest stories to date of the Chinese internet age. This talk considers the question “What, if anything, is different about Chinese parody in cyberspace?”, by highlighting several of the unique features of e’gao culture, including its use of Chinese-language puns and its indebtedness to Mainland China’s material culture of rampant ‘knock-offs’ known as shanzhai.”

12th International Summer School and Symposium on Humour and Laughter
University of Eastern Finland, Savonlinna, Finland, July 2-7, 2012

Professors Pirjo Nuutinen and Seppo Knuuttila will organize the 12th International Summer School and Symposium on Humour and Laughter to be held in Savonlinna, Finland from July 2 to July 7, 2012. As in prior years, the Summer School will offer a one week program which will include a symposium where delegates present their research. The 2012 Summer School will have a team of speakers made up of recognized leaders in humor studies as well as past ISHS Graduate Student Award recipients. As an added bonus, the 2012 Summer School will take place at the same time as the famous Savonlinna Opera Festival.

This International is endorsed by the International Society of Humor Studies. More to see soon at the summer school website: http://humoursummerschool.org/12/index.html
LAFAL 3 - Entertainment Discourse Beyond Humour Studies
University of Lódź, Poland, March 21-23, 2013

Humour, inherently associated with funniness, amusement and laughter, has attracted scholarly interest for centuries. Over the past three decades, humor studies have been developing at full tilt, with innumerable publications being released each year.

The first symposium of LAFAL (Linguistic Approaches to Funniness, Amusement and Laughter), held in 2010, was focused on linguistic approaches to different types of humor. The second LAFAL symposium will be part of the 2012 International Society for Humour Studies Conference, held in Kraków (see above). The third LAFAL symposium (2013), entitled “Entertainment Discourse Beyond Humour Studies”, is convened to provide a forum for linguists who are interested in concepts and language issues of relevance to humor research but who may prefer to address those without employing the well entrenched humor theories. The primary objective will be to explore multifarious phenomena which, viewed from a certain angle, appear to be humorous and, thereby, to enhance methodological tools used in humor research across a variety of linguistic disciplines.

For further information, please visit the Internet at http://ia.uni.lodz.pl/pragmatics/lafal-3/. Submission deadline is October 2012.

Remembrances

Remembering Avner Ziv

Avner Ziv was a Professor of Educational Psychology at Tel Aviv University in Israel and was a major early contributor to humor studies. He passed away on Wednesday, November 9, 2011 at the age of 82. Arie Sover (Israeli Society for Humor Studies), Chaya Ostrower (Beit Berl College, Israel), and Alleen and Don Nilsen (Arizona State University) share their thoughts of this friend and colleague.

From Arie Sover, Chair of the Israeli Society for Humor Studies

Avner Ziv was known as Mr. HUMOR in the academic field in Israel. Since 1980 he dedicated most of his time to advancing humor studies in the academic institutes. Most of the theses for master degree and PhD, concerning humor research, were written under his supervision at Tel Aviv University until he retired in 2000.

My first encounter with Avner was in 1980 when I came back from Paris after receiving my PhD in humor research. He invited me to his office in the university. I met a big man sitting on a big armchair with a pipe in his mouth. My chair was much lower. At that moment I felt like Napolitano in Chaplin’s film “The Great Dictator”. It was the beginning of a fruitful collaboration, and in three month from now our last joint publication will appear: “The Importance of not Being Serious”, a publication of essays in Hebrew, edited by Avner and myself.

Avner had received his Ph.D in Psychology from Sorbonne University, France, and he liked the good life in French style: A glass of wine and French food. A year ago, when he was informed that he got cancer, he took wife’s hand and said “Let’s go to a good French restaurant”.

In March 2010, the newly founded Israeli Society for Humor Studies organized the first interdisciplinary conference of humor research. Avner, our Honorary Fellow, should have been the keynote speaker. However, he could not do it anymore, because of his sickness. Avner Ziv may have passed away, but his knowledge is still with us. Some of his students became lecturers at academic institutes all over Israel. Avner left us with many explanations about humor, laughter, and a lot of reasons why we should continue laughing.

From Chaya Ostrower, Beit Berl College, Israel

Avner Ziv was my supervisor for my MA and Ph.D research at Tel-Aviv University in Israel. I am not sure whether people outside of Israel understand how much courage is needed for a Jew to agree to supervise my subject: “Humor as a defense mechanism in the holocaust”. When the idea of linking “humor” to “Holocaust” first occurred to me, I asked experts in the Holocaust-field in Israel and abroad what they thought about it. The answers I received were in the spirit of: “Don’t waste your time, you won’t find enough material, you’ll never get a doctorate out of that. It could be that there was humor, but it would be like finding a needle in a haystack”. Telling Avner Ziv about these answers, he reacted in a different way: “This is what they think, what do you think?” And the rest is history.
In Israel, putting the two words “Holocaust” and “Humor” together is desecration. Nevertheless, Avner Ziv willing took part in this unique research and encouraged me all the way from the beginning to the end, although he was forced to wear a badge in the form of a Yellow Star in his home town Bucharest at that time.

He was an intelligent open minded person and was the first person to bring the humor subject to Israeli academic study and research. May his memory be blessed.

From Aileen and Don Nilsen, Arizona State University
What we Nilsens remember about Avner Ziv is his energy and his enthusiasm. He was the first international humor scholar that we really got to know, and he gave us faith that there might be something to the idea that humor can transcend borders and languages, as well as different religious and political philosophies. His participation either as a planner and organizer or as a speaker is noted in each of the Whimsey (World Humor and Irony Membership Serial Yearbooks) from the pre-ISHS conferences that we held at Arizona State University between 1982 and 1988. In 1984 we traveled to Israel to attend the Fourth International Congress on Humor sponsored by Tel Aviv University and directed by Avner. The conference was preceded by a Colloquium on Jewish Humor, where we received a vivid lesson on the contagious nature of laughter. We found ourselves laughing right along with everyone else even though most of the presentations and discussions were in Hebrew.

Two years later in June of 1986, Avner organized the Second International Conference on Jewish Humor in New York City. The participants were both amazed and humbled at Avner’s abilities as a conference organizer. Participants were welcomed to the conference by the actual mayor of New York City, Ed. Koch, and in the afternoon the speakers on a panel about Erica Jong’s best-selling book, Fear of Flying did not know whether to be flattered or frightened when they learned that Avner had convinced Erica Jong to come and listen to the panel and then to speak right afterwards.

One of the most interesting mentions of Avner Ziv’s work in the WHIMSY conference proceedings was a paper given at our 1985 conference by James M. Vincent from the Moody Bible Institute. He had conducted a study showing that 55 percent of the Evangelical Christian Ministers associated with the Institute had used humor while conducting wedding services (almost twice as many as had used humor in eulogies presented at funerals). The ministers said they used humor to dispel anxiety. In Vincent’s report, he cited Avner’s work on how Israeli adults tried to use humor when air-raid sirens went off and they had to rush school children into underground bomb shelters. We were amused to see such a far-flung application of Avner’s work, and also to realize that American adults need the same kind of reassurance when they enter into marriage as do Israeli children when they enter into underground bomb shelters.

Any search engine can be used to find out more about Avner Ziv and the nearly 30 books that he has either written or co-written. Of the sites we looked at, our favorite is http://www.tau.ac.il/~ziv8/homepage.

Remembering Herbert M. Lefcourt
Herbert Lefcourt was a Professor of Psychology at the University of Waterloo in Ontario, Canada. He is best known for his work on humor as a stress moderator. He passed away on Tuesday, November 1, 2011 at the age of 76. Rod Martin shares his thoughts on his mentor, friend, and colleague.

From Rod A. Martin, University of Western Ontario
My earliest memories of Herbert M. Lefcourt are from the autumn of 1978, when I was sitting in a large lecture hall at the University of Waterloo, attending his popular course on personality psychology. Herb was a dynamic teacher who, in addition to his command of the research, drew on his vast knowledge of literature, film, and current events to make his lectures interesting, informative, and thought-provoking. A year later I found myself working as a graduate student in clinical psychology under Herb’s supervision. Over the next five years as I completed my PhD, I learned much from his creative approach to psychological research. He was a big, extraverted man with a hearty laugh and an irreverent sense of humor, who enjoyed grappling with ideas in lengthy, wide-ranging discussions, and developed innovative research methods for testing his hypotheses.

At the time, a lot of research was coming out on the adverse mental and physical health effects of psychosocial stress. Herb, always one to look on the positive side, was interested in the personality traits of people who
are particularly resilient, those who are able to withstand the adversities of life without succumbing to illness and depression. He was well known for his extensive research on locus of control, and had been studying this personality trait as a potential resiliency variable. He had also previously published a few studies on associations between locus of control and the sense of humor, and he suggested that I focus my research on humor as a potential stress-modering variable. Norman Cousins had just published his book on his recovery from life-threatening illness through laughter, and this seemed to be a topic whose time had come. Thus began a research interest that has continued for me ever since. At that time the concept of sense of humor was still not well defined, and, apart from the pioneering work of Sven Svebak in Norway, little had been done on measurement using self-report methods. Herb and I developed two measures that became quite widely used in the field for a number of years. We also published several articles and a book that opened up the study of humor, stress, and psychological well-being.

By the time I met him, Herb had been at Waterloo for 15 years, having immigrated to Canada from the United States. He was born on March 16, 1936, in Brooklyn, New York, where he grew up. He completed his Bachelor's degree at Antioch College in Ohio and his Ph.D. in clinical psychology at Ohio State University. He served as an officer in the U.S. Public Health Service from 1960-1963, before moving to Waterloo. After I left for the University of Western Ontario, Herb continued with humor studies, in addition to his other research, eventually publishing his book “Humor: The psychology of living buoyantly”, which has had considerable impact in the applied humor and well-being field. He retired from the university in 1996 and had a very productive and enjoyable retirement, pursuing his many interests, including international travel, woodworking, literature, film, classical music, and enjoying his summer cottage on Manitoulin Island in Lake Huron. He wrote numerous newspaper articles commenting on social issues and left-leaning political causes.

Herb died on November 1, 2011, in his 76th year, from pancreatic cancer. He leaves behind Barbara, his wife of 53 years, and their three children and five beloved grandchildren. He is greatly missed by his family, friends, and former students, and will be remembered by humor researchers and practitioners as a pioneer in the psychology of humor and health.

Recent Publications

**New Books on Humor**


Through the lens of cognitive science, Jokes and the Linguistic Mind investigates jokes that play on some aspect of the structure and function of language. In so doing, Debra Aarons shows that these “linguistic jokes” can evoke our tacit knowledge of the language we use. Analyzing examples from movies, plays and books, Jokes and the Linguistic Mind demonstrates that tacit linguistic knowledge must become conscious for linguistic jokes to be understood. With its use of jokes as data and its highly accessible explanations of complex linguistic concepts, this book is an engaging supplementary text for introductory courses in linguistics, psycholinguistics and cognitive science. It will also be of interest to scholars in translation studies, applied linguistics and philosophy of language. (http://www.taylorandfrancis.com/books/details/9780415890496/)


Satire was core to the work of Thomas Hobbes although his critics also used it as a weapon to ridicule him. Condren uses Hobbes as an example to demonstrate that an examination of the persona is needed to advance our understanding of a writer's philosophy. He demonstrates that satire and philosophy were closely linked during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, offering a new perspective on the nature of philosophy during this period. (http://www.pickeringchatto.com/monographs/hobbes_the_scriblerians_and_the_history_of_philosophy)


How do Chinese societies approach humour in personal life and in the public sphere? This book addresses the etymological difficulties of “humor” as a concept in Chinese language and explores connections and contrasts with Western styles of humor. Periods discussed range from earliest times to the beginning of the twentieth century, covering many different forms of humor - verbal, visual and behavioral. (http://www.hkupress.org/Common/Reader/Products/ShowProduct.jsp?Pid=1&Version=0&Cid=16&Charset=iso-8859-1&page=-1&key=9789888083527)


Exploring how religions contain (implicit) references to the finitude and relativity of the human condition, and why humor and spirituality fit well together, contributors discuss what the meaning of humor in different religions is. Did it evolve historically? How does it function? How is humor related to the realization of spiritual goals?

Looking at religions from an external perspective, the contributors then analyze the way religion interacts with humor in society. How does a religion respond to sarcasm and irony? Are there limits to mockery and making fun of believers? Does humor have a pacifying effect when societal tensions run high or does it intensify the sensitivities? (http://www.continuumbooks.com/books/detail.aspx?BookId=157692)

If politics is a serious matter and humor a funny one, this volume investigates how and why the boundaries between the two are blurred: politics can be represented in a humorous manner and humor can have a serious intent. Political humor conveys criticism against the political status quo and/or recycles and reinforces dominant views on politics. The data analyzed comes from European states with different sociopolitical histories and traditions and the methodologies adopted originate in different fields (discourse analysis, folklore and cultural studies, media studies, sociolinguistics, sociology, theatre semiotics). The first part of the volume is dedicated to politicians' humor as a means of public positioning, deliberation, and eventually attack against political adversaries, while the second one involves political satire as realized in different genres: animation, impersonation, and cartoons. The third part shows how political humor can be manipulated in public debates or become an integral part of post-modern art. (http://www.benjamins.com/#catalog/books/dapsac.46).

New Articles on Humor

Since Summer 2011, The Humorous Times mentions articles which appeared in our journal or which have been published by researchers who have been active within the ISHS. Please inform us about your publications!

Abicht, Ludo: "Jewish Humor." In Geybels & van Herck (Eds.)
Archakis, Argiris & Villy Tsakona: "Informal talk in formal settings: Humorous narratives in Greek parliamentary debates". In: Tsakona & Popa.
Boespflug, François: "To Laugh at God? Iconic History of the Limits Not to Be Passed." In Geybels & van Herck (Eds.)
Dynel, Marta: "Entertaining and emerging: The functions of verbal violence in broadcast political debates". In: Tsakona & Popa.
Elst, Koenraad: "Humor in Hinduism". In: Geybels & van Herck (Eds.)
Georgalidou, Marianti: "Stop caressing the ears of the hooded: Political humour in times of conflict" In: Tsakona & Popa.
Gerbert, Elaine: "Laughing Priests in the Atsuta Shrine Festival." In Geybels & van Herck (Eds.)
Geybels, Hans: "The Redeemptive Power of Humor in Religion. AnIntroductory Overview". In Geybels & van Herck (Eds.)
Herck, Walter van "Humor, Religion and Society. An Introduction", In Geybels & van Herck (Eds.)
Manenti, Vicky: "Transferring Aristophanes' Religious Registers in Modern Greek and English Versions". In Geybels & van Herck (Eds.)
Marciniak Przemykowska: "Homoe Byzantinus Ridens: Humor in Byzantium". In: Geybels & van Herck (Eds.)
Marzolph, Ulrich: "The Muslim Sense of Humor". In Geybels & van Herck (Eds.)
Mascha, Elbaris: "Mocking Fascism: Popular culture and political satire as counter-hegemony" In: Tsakona & Popa.
Milner Davis Jessica: "The Fool and the Path to Spiritual Insight". In Geybels & van Herck (Eds.)
Milner Davis Jessica: "On the Theory of Humours: Preamble to Rey Tiquia, The qi That Got Lost in Translation". In Milner Davis & Chey (Eds.), 31-36.
Milner Davis Jessica: "The Fool and the Path to Spiritual Insight". In Geybels & van Herck (Eds.), 218-247.
Müller, Ralph: "Fun in the German parliament?". In: Tsakona & Popa.
Partington, Alan: "Do double-speak at the White House: A corpus-assisted study of bisociation in conversational laughter-talk?". In: Humor 24.4
Papazoun, Diana Elena & Villy Tsakona: "Postscript: A final (?) note on political humour". In: Tsakona & Popa.
Papazoun, Diana: "Political satire dies last: A study on democracy, opinion formation, and political satire" In: Tsakona & Popa.
Ritchie, David L.: "You're lying to Jesus!" Humor and play in a discussion about homelessness". In: Humor 24.4
Rzepecka Jolanta: "Being Sorry about Laughter: The Case of Medieval Biblical Plays." In Geybels & van Herck (Eds.)
Sanid Gilius, Ingvil: "Why Did Ancient Gods Laugh? Humor in the History of Religions", In Geybels & van Herck (Eds.)
Schulten, Paul: "Humor on Religion in the Greco-Roman World". In Geybels & van Herck (Eds.)
Seirá, Julia Katherine: "Laughing all the way to freedom?: Contemporary stand-up comedy and democracy in South Africa". In: Humor 24.4
Tael, Johan: "Humor as Practical Wisdom," In: Geybels & van Herck (Eds.)
Tsakona, Villy: "Humor, Religion, and Politics in Greek Cartoons: Symbiosis or Conflict?" In Geybels & van Herck (Eds.)
Wagner, Manuela Eduardo Urapo-Arias: "The use of humor in the foreign language classroom: Funny and effective?". In: Humor 24.4
Watters, Clare: "Being Berlusconi: Sabina Guzzanti’s impersonation of the Italian Prime Minister between stage and screen" In: Tsakona & Popa.
Weisfeld, Glenn E., Nicole T. Nowak, Todd Lucas, Carol C. Weisfeld, E. Olcay Imamoglu, Marina Butovskaya, Jiliang Shen, Michele R. Parkhill: "Do women seek humourousness in men because it signals intelligence? A cross-cultural test". In: Humor 24.4
Yue, Xiao Dong: "The Chinese ambivalence to humor: Views from undergraduates in Hong Kong and China". In: Humor 24.4
About ISHS
The International Society for Humor Studies (ISHS) is a scholarly and professional organization dedicated to the advancement of humor research. Many of the society’s members are university and college professors, representing the disciplines of psychology, philosophy, linguistics, literature, religion, biology, fine arts, anthropology, and education. The society also includes professionals in areas such as counseling, management, journalism, nursing, and theater. All of the society’s members are interested in the many facets of humor, including its role in entertainment, business, and health care as well as how humor varies according to culture, age, gender, situation, and historical context.

About ISHS Conferences
From 1976 to 1988, humor scholars met seven times at international conferences to discuss recent advances in humor research. Since 1989, the International Society for Humor Studies has been the primary sponsor of these conferences, meeting each year in a different part of the world.

About HUMOR: International Journal of Humor Research
The Society’s journal, HUMOR, provides an interdisciplinary forum for the publication of high-quality articles on humor as an important and universal human faculty. Contributions include theoretical papers, original research reports, scholarly debates, and book reviews. All submissions are peer reviewed.

Membership Benefits
2012 ISHS members receive:
- a print or electronic subscription to HUMOR, Volume 25
- a one-year subscription to the Society’s electronic newsletter
- reduced registration fees to annual ISHS Humor Conferences and to ISHS-sponsored seminars
- discounts on humor research books
- bibliographies of humor research
- membership directories with contact information

Joining ISHS
You can join ISHS or renew your membership by completing the accompanying form and returning it with the appropriate fees to the Society’s Executive Secretary.

Regular Membership includes either a print or an electronic online subscription to the Society’s journal HUMOR. Dues are $105 for members who choose the print subscription and $65 for members who choose the electronic subscription. Regular members who renew by January 31, 2012 or join ISHS for the first time in 2012 may elect to take a $5 discount on their fees.

You can also join ISHS as an Associate Member. Associate members pay a low $30 fee (no discount available) and receive the Society’s e-newsletter, directories, reduced conference fees, bibliography access, and book discounts not requiring a journal subscription. Regular Members receive these benefits plus the Society’s journal.

ISHS Membership Form
Please use this form to join/ renew with ISHS for 2012.

Name (print neatly):
Department/ Affiliation:
Affiliation Address:
Mailing Address (if different from above):
Phone Numbers:
E-mail:
Fax:

Please indicate your interests in humor research:

☐ Please check if you are currently a college or university student.

A. Status and Fees (check status & enter fee):
  ☐ Regular Member, Print Journal (USD $105)
  ☐ Regular Member, Online Journal (USD $65)
  ☐ Associate Member, No Journal (USD $30)

Regular Members who renew by January 31, 2012 or join ISHS for the first time in 2012 may reduce their fees by $5. No discounts are available to Associate Members.

B. Donation (enter optional contribution):

Please indicate your method for dues payment.
☐ Check: All checks to the Society should be drawn on a U.S. bank and made out to Holy Names University.
☐ Credit Card: If by credit card, please provide the following. We accept only Visa, MasterCard, and American Express.

Please indicate your method for dues payment.
Name on Card:
Card Number:
Card Company:
Expiration Date:
3 or 4 digit Authorization Code:

Total Amount Due (add A and B above):

Please send this membership form and payment to:
Martin Lampert, ISHS Executive Secretary
Holy Names University, 3500 Mountain Boulevard
Oakland, California 94619, USA
Tel: 510-436-1532; E-mail: ishs@hnu.edu