

The Humorous Times

Newsletter of the International Society for Humor Studies

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Association News

2020 ISHS Membership and Finances

From Martin Lampert, ISHS Secretary-Treasurer



The International Society for Humor Studies had a good year in 2020 with 201 affiliates with 193 new and returning members and eight additional Board Members and Consulting Editors of the journal, *HUMOR*. At the October 31 close of 2020 membership, the Society was again financially sound with \$70,797.23 in unaudited revenue including \$56,347.23 carried over from 2019 and \$14,450 from 2020 membership dues and fees. Operating expenses for 2020 included \$339.04 for online services and fees, and \$11,284.00 for membership subscriptions and fees to *HUMOR: International Journal for Humor Research*. Revenue over expenses at the end of 2020 was \$59,174.19.

In 2020, Holy Names University received \$1,394.08 for the ISHS Scholarship fund. At year end, the scholarship fund held \$21,645.01. Because the Society did not hold its annual conference, the Society did not make scholarship awards for the year. As always, I would like to thank the members who made contributions to the ISHS Scholarship Fund, and I would like to encourage others to make donations with their 2021 membership applications.

We look forward to another great year in 2021 with the publication of the 34th volume of *HUMOR* and, in lieu of its annual conference, a special webinar series to run from April 9 through June 18, 2021. All ISHS members can register for and attend the webinar series as part of their membership at no additional cost. The next ISHS Conference will be held at the University of Bologna from June 27 through July 2, 2022. You can get more information on the 33rd ISHS Conference at <https://eventi.unibo.it/ishs-2020>. If you would like to host a future ISHS Conference, you can contact me for more information on how to submit a Conference proposal. We are still accepting proposals for our 2023 Conference.

If you are not a current 2021 member, you can join the Society or renew your ISHS membership for 2021 on the Society's website at www.humorstudies.org. On the membership page, you will find a link that will allow you to renew your membership. On the online application form, you will see the Society's current fee structure, which offers membership with either an online or print subscription to the Society's journal, *HUMOR*. For the current year, *HUMOR* will have more original research articles, and print subscribers will receive online access to the 2021 *HUMOR* book reviews, which will be published only online. Membership is still \$69 with an online subscription and \$130 with a print subscription. Please note that renewal includes a 3% plus \$1 processing fee. 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 plus processing.

Finally, thank you for your 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.

In This Issue

Association News	1
• 2020 ISHS Membership & Finances	
• 2021 ISHS Webinar Series	
Recent Events	5
• Humor Research Conference	
Upcoming Events	5
• 28th AHSN Colloquium	
• 48th TASP Conference	
• Humor in the Beginning Conference	
• 35th AATH Conference	
• 5th Geological Congress	
Recent Publications.....	6
In Remembrance.....	11

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2021 ISHS Webinar Series

Alternate Fridays from April 9 through June 18, 2021



Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Society has postponed its 33rd Conference to June 27 to July 2, 2022. In its place, the Society will hold a webinar series to run on alternate Fridays from April 9 through June 18, 2021. Each webinar will start at 10:00 am Pacific Daylight Savings Time (5:00 pm UTC). Registration for the webinar series is included with 2021 ISHS regular and associate membership. ISHS members can register online for each webinar by clicking on the link provided with the webinar's description.

Members will receive registration confirmation and links to join the webinars of their choice. Nonmembers can register for and receive access to one webinar to sample what ISHS has to offer. The individual webinars, speakers, and dates are as follows.

The Contingent Dynamics of Political Humor

April 9, 2021, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm PDT (5:00 pm - 7:00 pm UTC)

[Click here to register for *The Contingent Dynamics of Political Humor*](#)

Organizers: Sammy Basu, Willamette University, USA
and Massih Zekavat, Europa-Universität Flensburg, Germany

The first webinar focuses on political humor in advance of a special issue of the *European Journal of Humour Research* on the same topic. The webinar and the special issue will focus on interdisciplinary scholarly works that address the repressive and irrepressible dynamics of humour by locating the actual practices and instances of political humour that succeed, fall flat, or backfire within their relevant historical, institutional and cultural contexts. This webinar will include the following presentations.

***Power and Satire in the Front Page Images of Mariano Rajoy:
Visual Motifs as Political Humour***

Manuel Garin, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Spain
Daniel Pérez-Pamies, Universitat de Girona, Spain

Spontaneous Humour and Malaysia's Democratic Breakthrough in 2018

Shanon Shah, King's College London, United Kingdom

Trevor Noah and the Contingent Politics of Racial Joking

Jennalee Donian, University of Fort Hare, South Africa
and Nicholas Holm Massey, University, New Zealand

Is Comedy "Tragedy plus Time"? Roundtable

April 23, 2021, 10:00 am -12:00 pm PDT (5:00 pm - 7:00 pm UTC)

[Click here to registration for *Is Comedy "Tragedy plus Time"? Roundtable*](#)

Organizers: Patrice Oppliger, Boston University, USA
and Eric Shouse, Eastern Carolina University, USA

Discussants: Katie Mears, Vulture.com,
and Darren Valenta, St. Cloud State University, USA

This webinar will debate the ever-popular expression "comedy is tragedy plus time" and the idea that humor is always the result of "benign violations." Stand-up comedians who reference ongoing mental and physical illnesses in their acts also challenge relief theories of humor by sometimes creating tension without offering a definitive release. Like the dark side of stand-up comedy more generally, the humor of comedians such as Maria Bamford, Neal Brennan, and Tig Notaro is a paradoxical and incongruous blend of tragedy and comedy that cannot be easily resolved. We will expand on the chapter, "An Incongruous Blend of Tragedy and Comedy: How Maria Bamford Lightens the Dark Side of Mental Illness," from *The Dark Side of Stand-Up Comedy* (2020).

Mutating Discriminatory Representations through Humor or How Humorists Ascribe, Disguise, and Shift Stereotypes

May 7, 2021, 10:00 am -12:00 pm PDT (5:00 pm - 7:00 pm UTC)

[Click here to register for *Mutating Discriminatory Representations through Humor*](#)

Organizer: Villy Tsakona, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece

Discussant: Jan Chovanec, Masaryk University Brno, Czech Republic

One of the most hotly debated topics in humor research involves whether humor influences and/or reflects social reality and public opinion, how, to what extent, and under what circumstances. This topic is usually raised when humorous texts involving discriminatory content (e.g. racist, sexist, classist) are discussed. On the one hand, traditional approaches to humor argue that, since humor belongs to *non-bona-fide* communication, where nothing serious, sincere, relevant, or accurate is to be expected, humorous texts neither reflect social reality nor intend to cause offence. It is therefore suggested that humor cannot be blamed for promoting racist, sexist, or other discriminatory views and stereotypes, although it may exploit them to make people laugh.

On the other hand, more recent critical approaches to humorous discourse claim that humor can create and be considered responsible for disseminating prejudicial views and stereotypes by ridiculing specific targets, such as ethnic groups, migrants, women, lawyers, homosexuals, and politicians. Both superiority and relief theories of humor capture this dimension of humor: in the first case, humor attacks a supposedly inferior target, while, in the second, humor allows speakers to express themselves in socially unacceptable and condemnable ways. Consequently, critical research on humor seems to be more sociopolitically and culturally sensitive: topics such as the limits of humor in specific contexts, the thin line between humor and offense, its sociopolitical repercussions, and its effects on social relations have nowadays become the foci of analysis.

Following a critical line of research, this webinar includes studies investigating the ways discrimination may be reproduced in humorous genres as well as how and why it may be perceived or missed by their recipients. This webinar will include the following presentations.

Whose Stereotypes are These Anyway?

Examining the Intersection of Humor and Cultural Identity

Aleksandar Takovski, AAB College, Kosovo

Incongruity in Disguise: A Multimodal Study of the Migration Crisis in Political Cartoons

Anna Piata & Stavros Assimakopoulos

National and Kapodistrian University of Athens & University of Malta

From Poverty-Stricken to Uncivilized 'Other':

The Evolution of Stereotypes about Migrants in Greek Online Jokes

Argiris Archakis, University of Patras, Greece

and Villy Tsakona, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece

Humor and Artificial Intelligence

May 21, 2021, 10:00 am -12:00 pm PDT (5:00 pm - 7:00 pm UTC)

[Click here to register for *Humor and Artificial Intelligence*](#)

Organizer: Christian Hempelmann, Texas A&M University–Commerce, USA

Other Panelists: Julia Taylor Rayz, Purdue University, USA

Tristan Miller, Austrian Research Institute for Artificial Intelligence

and Tiansi Dong, Bonn University, Germany

Christian Hempelmann will begin with an overview of past approaches to generating and analyzing humor computationally up to 2015. As in its parent discipline, computational linguistics, early approaches were symbolic, rule- and resource-based. Since the 1990s, the methodology came increasingly from computer sciences and was probabilistic, up to the unexplainable algorithms of machine learning.

Julia Rayz will continue the presentation from 2015 and provide a brief overview of the strengths and weaknesses of contemporary intelligent systems, concentrating on their ability to “understand” text

and make inferences, loosely described as learning. It will follow by applicability of various language models to computational humor.

Tristan Miller will present on how puns and wordplay are humorous stylistic features that are recurrent in literary texts but are among the most challenging for humans to translate. In this talk, he will describe how AI can provide specialized support to translators working with puns.

Tiansi Dong will address the research on cognitive maps and how jokes can be understood as a collage of two cognitive maps. The presentation will emphasize the neuro-symbolic procedures to acquire such a collage, and will address the important roles humor plays in commonsense reasoning and neuro-symbolic integration. Both are characteristic features of the next generation of AI.

This webinar will conclude with a roundtable discussion with the audience on the ethics of humor and AI, which has become more relevant as AI becomes more intelligent.

Seriously Funny: Humor that Breaks the Rules

June 4, 2021, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm PDT (5:00 pm - 7:00 pm UTC)

[Click here to register for Seriously Funny](#)

Organizer: Delia Chiaro, Università di Bologna, Italy

Humour is often seen as a liberating and laughter inducing social phenomenon with no serious consequences. Nevertheless, when politics are involved, humour may take on a moral aspect that violates boundaries and may contribute to occurrences of radicalization. In these talks, we will explore this new understanding of what is humorous and what can occur when communities and groups coalesce around contemporary forms of political humour, especially on the right of the political spectrum, and its fallout both in the public sphere and in online spaces. The presentations in this webinar argue that understanding the social and political context as well as new forms of morality emerging from the cultural milieu is crucial to unlock what is now increasingly becoming a process that can be defined as “seriously funny” and result in political polarization, hate crimes and the need for constant acts of transgression. The webinar will include the following presentations.

Humor and Polarization

Giselinde Kuipers, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium

From London Bridge to Finsbury Mosque: Humour and Hate Crimes

Nikita Lobanov, Università di Bologna Italy

Is Crossing Boundaries Always Liberating?

The Contested Politics of Transgressive Humour

Dick Zijp, Universiteit Utrecht, Netherlands

Humor as a Personality Characteristic:

New Insights into Individual Differences in Humor and Important Life Outcomes

June 18, 2021, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm PDT (5:00 pm - 7:00 pm UTC)

[Click here to register for Humor as a Personality Characteristic](#)

Organizer: Jennifer Hofmann, University of Zurich, Switzerland

Discussant: Tracey Platt, University of Sunderland, United Kingdom

The aim of this webinar is to tap into core challenges of psychological humor research, as well as to give you insight into the latest data on humor and important life outcomes in the light of the current pandemic. Firstly, to address an “evergreen challenge,” Willibald Ruch will talk about the assessment of humor. He will give a brief overview on what instruments there are and which ones should be used for which research and application purpose. Secondly, Sonja Heintz will present the latest data on comic styles and coping with the pandemic. Thirdly, René Proyer will show you how the three dispositions towards ridicule and laughter impact on romantic relationships. After the presentations, the insights will be discussed by Tracey Platt and all attendees will have the opportunity to join the discussion and ask questions. This webinar is targeted at anyone interested in the psychology of humor—from students

wanting to learn about how to assess humor in their research, practitioners wanting to learn about the influence of humor on life domains such as relationships, as well as new and seasoned humor researchers aiming at expanding their knowledge. The webinar will include the following presentations.

Assessing the Humor Personality:

Is the Instrument I Need Already Constructed? If So, Which one is it?

Willibald Ruch, University of Zurich, Switzerland

Comic Styles and Coping with the Covid-19 Crisis

Sonja Heintz & Konstantin Edelmann, University of Plymouth, United Kingdom

Dealing with Laughter and Ridicule in Romantic Relationships:

Relationship Satisfaction of Gelotophobes, Gelotophiles, and Katagelasticians

René Proyer and Kay Brauer; Martin-Luther-University Halle-Wittenberg

Recent Events

Eleventh Humor Research Conference

Texas A&M University-Commerce, February 26-27, 2021

From Salvatore Attardo, Texas A&M University-Commerce

The 11th Humor Research Conference (HRC) was held on February 26-27, 2021. The HRC is organized yearly by students in the Applied Linguistics program at Texas A&M University-Commerce in the department of Literature and Languages, with the help of two faculty co-organizers, Christian Hempelmann and Salvatore Attardo. The conference became a dual-modality event in 2019 (held on campus and as a live-broadcast), so it was easy in 2020 to transition to a fully online conference in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This year we had our largest participation with 37 papers presentations and 180 attendees.

The conference was truly an international affair with presenters and attendees from Italy, France, Germany, Spain, Ukraine, Switzerland, Poland, Canada, Mexico, India, Pakistan, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, the Philippines, Turkey, Iran. Some presenters connected from such exotic locales as Lone Oak, Texas. The conference included sessions on COVID-19 humor, artificial intelligence, and memes. Presentations included topics such as Sanskrit theater humor, children's humor, the neuropsychology of humor, humor in the classroom, humor in conversation, and humor and touching.

Despite being fully online, we stayed faithful to our all-plenary schedule (everybody gets to hear everybody else!) along with our student-friendly inclusive atmosphere. An interesting challenge was handling the time zones when scheduling. To accommodate our international attendees, we held a late-late-night session, which started at 9:00 pm and ended at 11:30 pm in Texas, but was morning in East Asia. Nothing like a discussion on cartooning in Malayalam late at night to put you in a studious mood!

The next HRC 12 will be held on the weekend of February 25-27, 2022. See our web page www.tamuc.edu/humor for updates and the official call for papers.

Upcoming Events

Forty-Eighth Annual Meeting of The Association for the Study of Play

Online, April 1-June 1, 2021

The 48th Annual Meeting of The Association for the Study of Play will be held online in conjunction with the US Play Coalition. The theme of this virtual conference is *Play is Survival*. For more information, visit TASP conference website at <http://www.tasplay.org/conference> or the US Play Coalition website at <https://usplaycoalition.org/playconference2021>.

Thirty-Fourth Meeting of the Association for Applied and Therapeutic Humor

Virtual Conference, April 29-May 2, 2021

The theme of the 34rd AATH Conference will be Super-Humor!: Powerful Therapeutic. Fun. Conference discounts are available to ISHS members. For more information, visit the AATH Conference page at <http://www.aath.org>.

Sixth International Gelological Congress

St. Petersburg, Russia, May 12-May 15, 2021

The focus of the 6th International Gelological Congress is to provide a cross-cultural perspective on humour. Humour can be described as a universal phenomenon, common to all humans (and perhaps beyond). Cross-cultural comparisons have shown that the increase in the speed and scope of communicative channels has resulted in the globalization of certain types and forms of humour. At the same time, a counter-tendency of localization may be observed - humour is, after all, a phenomenon that reacts to its immediate environment. The congress will address issues as diverse as laughter and humour in different areas and media, cross-cultural similarities and differences, artistic and popular forms of humour, its bonding and dividing character, etc. The Congress invites researches in sociology, social philosophy, psychology, social linguistics, folklore, literary criticism and other disciplines. Interested participant should submit registration materials and paper abstracts (up to 1000 words) by March 15, 2021. For more information, contact the congress chair Sergei Troitckii at sergtroy@yandex.ru.

Incitatus Symposium on Political Humor

Online, Universidade Federal do Paraná, Brazil, May 28-May 29, 2021

The symposium INCITATUS 2021 aims to provide an open space for reflection on humor and politics. The symposium welcomes authors from all fields, but presentations should focus on the intersections between humor and politics. Possible topics may include, but are not limited to: humor under different government regimes; humor in election campaigns; humor in the media; humor in political discourse, and humor taboos. Paper proposals can be sent in English or Portuguese to Constantino Pereira Martins at mconstantinomar@gmail.com or João Paulo Capelotti at joao.capelotti@gmail.com. Proposals must not exceed 500 words and presentations must be planned for a 20 minute talk. The deadline for proposals is April 21, 2021. Participation and attendance is free.

Recent Publications

The Humorous Times announces recent articles from *HUMOR: International Journal of Humor Research* and by researchers who publish elsewhere within humor studies. The following list, compiled by the ISHS Executive Secretary, includes humor studies articles published since August 2020. If you have a recent publication, let us know. We will include it in a future newsletter.

- Abrahams, D. (2020). Winning over the audience: Trust and humor in stand-up comedy. *Journal of Aesthetics & Art Criticism*, 78(4), 491–500. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jaac.12760>
- Amir, L. (2020). “Pure joy”: Spinoza on laughter and cheerfulness. *Southern Journal of Philosophy*, 58(4), 500–533. <https://doi.org/10.1111/sjp.12399>
- Astapova, A. (2020). Soviet meta-jokes: tradition and continuity. *The European Journal of Humour Research*, 8(3), *The European Journal of Humour Research*, 8(3), 60-82
- Bag, B. (2020). Therapeutic use of humor in psychiatric care. *Current Approaches in Psychiatry / Psikiyatride Guncel Yaklasimlar*, 12(4), 519–533. <https://doi.org/10.18863/pgy.689943>
- Bambini, V., Bischetti, L., Bonomi, C. G., Arcara, G., Lecce, S., & Ceroni, M. (2020). Beyond the motor account of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis: Verbal humour and its relationship with the cognitive and pragmatic profile. *International Journal of Language & Communication Disorders*, 55(5), 751–764. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1460-6984.12561>
- Bennett, P. N., Hussein, W. F., Reiterman, M., Yu, J., & Schiller, B. (2020). The effects of laughter therapy on depression symptoms in patients undergoing center hemodialysis: A pragmatic randomized controlled trial. *Hemodialysis International*, 24(4), 541–549. <https://doi.org/10.1111/hdi.12870>

- Bergen, D. (2020). The development of sex differences in humor initiation and appreciation. *Humor: International Journal of Humor Research*, 33(2), 179–195. <https://doi.org/10.1515/humor-2018-0136>
- Betz, D. E., & DiDonato, T. E. (2020). Is it sexy to be sexist? How stereotyped humor affects romantic attraction. *Personal Relationships*, 27(4), 732–759. <https://doi.org/10.1111/per.12346>
- Bischetti, L., Canal, P., & Bambini, V. (2021). Funny but aversive: A large-scale survey of the emotional response to Covid-19 humor in the Italian population during the lockdown. *Lingua*, 249, N.PAG. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.lingua.2020.102963>
- Bischoff, M., Schmidt, S., Muehlan, H. (2021). Development and validation of the child humor orientation scale short-form. *Humor: International Journal of Humor Research*, 34(1), 69-92. <https://doi.org/10.1515/humor-2020-0020>
- Brauer, K., & Proyer, R. T. (2020). Gelotophobia in romantic life: Replicating associations with attachment styles and their mediating role for relationship status. *Journal of Social & Personal Relationships*, 37(10–11), 2890–2897. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0265407520941607>
- Brodie, I. (2020). Is stand-up comedy art? *Journal of Aesthetics & Art Criticism*, 78(4), 401–418. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jaac.12763>
- Caldwell, T. L., & Wojtach, P. (2020). Men are funnier than women under a condition of low self-efficacy but women are funnier than men under a condition of high self-efficacy. *Sex Roles*, 83(5/6), 338–352. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11199-019-01109-w>
- Carcioppolo, N., Occa, A., & Chudnovskaya, E. V. (2020). When is it OK to Joke? Adding humor to fear-based colonoscopy screening messages may increase compliance. *Humor: International Journal of Humor Research*, 33(4), 581 - 602. <https://doi.org/10.1515/humor-2018-0057>
- Carroll, N. (2020). I'm Only Kidding: On Racist and Ethnic Jokes. *Southern Journal of Philosophy*, 58(4), 534–546. <https://doi.org/10.1111/sjp.12391>
- Ceuterick, M. (2020). An affirmative look at a domesticity in crisis: Women, humour and domestic labour during the COVID-19 pandemic. *Feminist Media Studies*, 20(6), 896–901. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14680777.2020.1789396>
- Chang, W.-L. M., Michael Haugh, M. (2020). The metapragmatics of “teasing” in Taiwanese Chinese conversational humour. *The European Journal of Humour Research*, 8(4), 7-30
- Chatterjee, A. (2020). Humour in Narendra Modi memes on new media. *South Asian Popular Culture*, 18(3), 227–245. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14746689.2020.1815450>
- Christensen, M. (2020). Humanizing Healthcare through Humor: Or How Medical Clowning Came to Be. *TDR: The Drama Review (MIT Press)*, 64(3), 52–66. https://doi.org/10.1162/dram_a_00942
- Davis, J. M. (2021). The language of humor: An introduction. *Humor: International Journal of Humor Research*, 33(4), 645-653. <https://doi.org/10.1515/humor-2020-0083>
- Davison, K. (2020). “Plainly of considerable moment in human society”: Francis Hutcheson and polite laughter in eighteenth-century Britain and Ireland. *Royal Institute of Philosophy Supplement*, 88, 143–169. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1358246120000132>
- Deen, P. (2020). What could it mean to say that today’s stand-up audiences are too sensitive? *Journal of Aesthetics & Art Criticism*, 78(4), 501–512. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jaac.12755>
- Del Ré, A., Dodane, C., Morgenstern, A., & Vieira, A. J. (2020). Children’s development of humour in everyday interactions: two case-studies in French and Brazilian Portuguese. *The European Journal of Humour Research*, 8(4), 112-131
- Dore, M. (2020). Intertextuality and failed taboo humour in advertising. *The European Journal of Humour Research*, 8(3), 99-114.
- Dynel, M., & Poppi, F. I. M. (2020). Quid rides?: Targets and referents of RoastMe insults. *Humor: International Journal of Humor Research*, 33(4), 535 - 562. <https://doi.org/10.1515/humor-2019-0070>
- Fiadotava, A. (2021). “If we don’t quarrel, we joke”: Emic perspectives on Belarusian families’ humorous folklore. *Humor: International Journal of Humor Research*, 34(1), 1-20. <https://doi.org/10.1515/humor-2019-0052>
- Finley, J. (2020). Irreverence Rules: The Politics of authenticity and the carnivalesque aesthetic in Black South African women’s stand-up comedy. *Journal of Aesthetics & Art Criticism*, 78(4), 437–450. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jaac.12756>
- Ford, T. E., Buie, H. S., Mason, S. D., Olah, A. R., Breeden, C. J., & Ferguson, M. A. (2020). Diminished self-concept and social exclusion: Disparagement humor from the target’s perspective. *Self & Identity*, 19(6), 698–718. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15298868.2019.1653960>
- Forgas, J. P., & Matovic, D. (2020). Mood effects on humor production: Positive mood improves the verbal ability to be funny. *Journal of Language & Social Psychology*, 39(5/6), 701–715. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0261927X20917994>
- Fritz, H. L. (2020). Coping with caregiving: Humor styles and health outcomes among parents of children with disabilities. *Research in Developmental Disabilities*, 104, N.PAG. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ridd.2020.103700>
- Gbadegesin, V. O. (2020). Gender ideology and identity in humorous social media memes. *Digital Scholarship in the Humanities*, 35(3), 529–546. <https://doi.org/10.1093/llc/fqz039>

- Gkorezis, P. (2020). Supervisor humor and employee job performance: A moderated mediation model of work enjoyment and suspicion of the supervisor. *Humor: International Journal of Humor Research*, 33(4), 603-623. <https://doi.org/10.1515/humor-2019-0067>
- Goddard, C. (2020). De-Anglicising humour studies. *The European Journal of Humour Research*, 8(4), 48-58.
- Granitsas, D. A. (2020). All laughter is nervous: An anxiety-based understanding of incongruous humor. *Humor: International Journal of Humor Research*, 33(4), 625-643. <https://doi.org/10.1515/humor-2019-0015>
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- Hurst, A. (2020). An ethos of affirmative laughter in Nietzsche's Zarathustra. *Southern Journal of Philosophy*, 58(4), 547-573. <https://doi.org/10.1111/sjp.12392>
- Joao Paulo Capelotti, J. P. (2020). The dangers of controlling memes through copyright law. *The European Journal of Humour Research*, 8(3), 115-136
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In Remembrance



Shōkichi Oda

1931-2020

From Goh Abe and Jessica Milner Davis

In 2000, the unforgettable Millennial Conference of the International Society for Humor Studies was held in Osaka, Japan. It was hosted by Emeritus Professor Hiroshi Inoue of Kansai University, a long-serving President of the Japan Society for Laughter and Humor (JSLH). In recent sad news, the Society lost one of its most senior members, Shōkichi Oda. Mr. Oda gave a memorable keynote speech at the 2000 ISHS Conference, which was later published as a chapter entitled, “The Traditional Japanese Smile and Laughter” in the 2007 edited book, *Understanding Humor in Japan*. His chapter canvassed the contemporary shift in attitudes in Japan to public and private use of humor. His work provided a powerful introduction to the studies included in the book.

Last year, he published the book, *Humor no aru fukei* [A Landscape of Humor]. In it, Mr. Oda continued his reflections on the importance of a sense of humor, writing that it is “a sense of balance, a kind of flexible mental ability to break down our stereotypical assumptions to assist us in forming multiple ways of looking at things.” With such a sense of balance, individuals in contemporary Japanese society can reconceptualize traditional gender roles on an equal basis and approach the future with a positive outlook. The author regarded this book, his last book, as a gift to himself, reflecting his sustained efforts over many years to explore hidden aspects of humor in Japanese culture. At the end of the book, he provided a chronological record of his own lifetime spent in humor research.

In 2007, Prof. Inoue presented Mr Oda with the first ever Honorary Life Membership of the JSLH. His work will remain an inspiration to the members who will follow in his footsteps. He will be sadly missed in humor studies circles as a true pioneer.



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