

# The Humorous Times

Newsletter of the International Society for Humor Studies

Spring/Summer 2023

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## Association News

### Introducing Specialist Interest Groups

*From Sharon Lockyer, ISHS President*

As announced at this summer's ISHS Conference in Boston, the Society would like to establish Specialist Interest Groups. Specialist Interest Groups will help the sustainability of the Society and ensure that the Society adequately reflects the interests of its members.

Specialist Interest Groups will be led or co-led by ISHS members, who will be encouraged to run online events during the year and to put together panels or streams at annual ISHS conferences. Specialist Interest Groups will provide ways for members to meet and connect with each other as well as advance and raise the profiles of specific research areas within humor studies.

We would like to afford all ISHS members the opportunity to create a Specialist Interest Group. To propose a Specialist Interest Group (SIG), you should submit a two-page Expression of Interest to [humorstudies@outlook.com](mailto:humorstudies@outlook.com) by October 6, 2023, with the following details:

- The SIG's title
- The SIG's Lead or Co-Leads with their contact information
- The SIG's mission and objectives
- A list of potential members
- An outline of how potential members will be invited to join the Specialist Interest Group

Specialist Interest Groups can focus on specific subject areas within humor studies such as philosophy, computer assisted humor, law, the public sphere, live performance, practice-as-research etc. Several opportunities do exist for Specialist Interest Groups within ISHS, as we are such a diverse and interdisciplinary society. Members can submit more than one Expression of Interest should they wish to do so, and the ISHS Executive Board will consider all submissions.

### ISHS Logo Competition

*From the ISHS Executive Board*



At this summer's ISHS Conference in Boston, ISHS members expressed an interest to update the Society's logo seen here. To provide all ISHS members with an opportunity to participate in a redesign of our logo, the ISHS Executive Board decided recently to launch a logo competition. To enter the competition, interested members can design and submit one or more logo entries. The designs must be original, reflective of the Society's nature, and suitable for an international audience. Each entry should further include the submitter's name and contact information along with their graphic design in a jpg or png file that does not exceed 1 MB in size. All entries should be e-mailed to the ISHS Executive Secretary at [humorstudies@outlook.com](mailto:humorstudies@outlook.com) by October 31, 2023. The ISHS Board will review all entries, and in November, current members will have an opportunity to vote on the Board approved submissions along with the current logo. The winning submission will become the Society's new logo on its stationary, website, and announcements, and the winning logo creator will receive a prize of \$150.00.

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### Next Issue

The next *Humorous Times* is due in November 2023. Items for the November issue should be sent to [humorstudies@outlook.com](mailto:humorstudies@outlook.com).

# Report on 33rd Conference of the International Society for Humor Studies

*Boston University, July 3-7, 2023*

*From Patrice Oppliger, Conference Convener, Boston University*

The 33rd annual Conference of the International Society of Humor Studies took place from July 3rd to July 7th, 2023, at Boston University. On the first morning, conference activities began with two preconference panels organized by Lydia Amir and hosted by Phillip Dean of the International Association for the Philosophy of Humor. The morning also included an information session for graduate students and emerging scholars entitled, “Graduate student walks into a humor conference . . . and learns lots of great stuff!” This session was chaired by ISHS President Sharon Lockyer, with assistance from Moira Marsh and Andrew Olah, and followed by a lunch with an opportunity for attendees to network. ISHS President Sharon Lockyer officially opened the Conference in the afternoon with remarks on the future of the society.

For the run of the Conference, approximately 95 presenters participated in 20 panels and seven plenary sessions on a broad range of humor related topics. The plenary sessions included a panel on AI and Humor Construction. Wladyslaw Chlopicki chaired a plenary featuring contributors to the upcoming *Handbook of Humor Research*. Eric Shouse hosted a roundtable of industry professionals from Boston University (Adam Lapidus) and Emerson College (Manny Basanese and Andy Miara) on their strategies for teaching humor in a



2023 ISHS Student Award winners, Andrew Sparrow, Adam Levinson, Florence Madenga, and Diego Hoefel, with ISHS President, Sharon Lockyer

range of fields, including sitcom writing. Ian Brodie and Katie Mears chaired a panel of Boston area comedians (Amma Marfo, Zach Stewart, Jack Grey, and Steph Dalwin), who shared their challenges and strategies as representatives of under-represented gender and racial groups. Diego Hoefel and João Paulo Capelotti organized two plenaries on Humor and Conflict in the Global South, which included scholars from South America and Africa. The Society also held its annual Graduate Student Award session with presentations from the 2023 award winners. Andrew Sparrow received the Don and Alleen Nilson Young Scholar Award, and Adam Levinson received the Christie Davies Awards. Diego Hoefel and Florence Madenga also received Graduate Students Awards for their exemplary conference papers.

## Upcoming Events

### Seventeenth Annual Conference of the Lighthearted Philosophers Association

*Whitefish, Montana, USA, November 10-11, 2023*

Details on how to register for the 17th annual conference of the Lighthearted Philosophers Association can be found at <https://www.lightheartedphilosophers.com>. For additional conference information, you can write to the conference organizers at [lighthearted.philosophers@gmail.com](mailto:lighthearted.philosophers@gmail.com).

### Thirtieth Annual AHSN Colloquium

*University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia, February 7-9, 2024*

The 30th Colloquium of the Australasian Humour Studies Network (AHSN) will be held at the University of Queensland in Brisbane, Australia. The colloquium conveners are Wei-Lin Melody Chang, Michael Haugh, and Valerie Sinkeviciute. The colloquium theme will be The Language of Humour. The deadline for paper submissions is August 31, 2023. For more information, contact the colloquium organizers at [ahsnconference@gmail.com](mailto:ahsnconference@gmail.com) or visit the AHSN website at <https://ahsnhumourstudies.org/annual-conference>.

### Thirty-Seventh Annual Conference of the Association for Applied and Therapeutic Humor

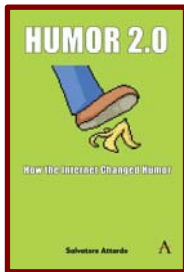
*Denver, Colorado, April 4-7, 2024*

The theme of the 37th AATH Conference will be Serious about Humor. Conference discounts are available to ISHS members. For more information, visit the AATH Conference page at <http://www.aath.org>.

## Recent Publications

### Humor 2.0: How the Internet Changed Humor

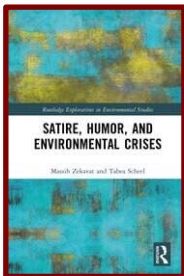
Salvatore Attardo (2023). *Humor 2.0: How the Internet Changed Humor*. Anthem Press, 294 pp., ISBN-13: 978-1-8399-8856-1; E-ISBN: 978-1-8399-8857-8



*From the Publisher:* The book provides a comprehensive discussion of the new humor that has appeared on the internet. The book is divided into five sections. The introduction reviews the theoretical tools that will be applied throughout the book: a discussion of humor theory and memes and how they function. Part 1 collects several chapters on the new humorous genres that have appeared on the internet: the humorous meme, the compilation video, online digital cartoons, the “stuff white people like” phenomenon, Dogecoin, the joke cryptocurrency, and of course satirical news, such as *The Onion*. Part 2 considers in more detail several examples of humorous memes: they include the Cheryl She Shed meme, the Boaty McBoatface incident in which the crowdsourcing of the name for a boat went awry, Pastafarianism, the joke religion, grumpy cats, and the Chuck Norris memes. Part 3 considers multimodal humorous genres: the Hitler rant, photobombing, embarrassment (“cringe”) comedy, rant-to-music videos, and music video parodies. Part 4 looks at the dark side of internet humor, considering the use of humor by the alt. right on 4chan and 8chan, trolling, and related phenomena. The last chapter looks at humorous cartoon “mascots” such as Pepe the Frog and Kek, which have been appropriated by the right.

### Satire, Humor, and Environmental Crisis

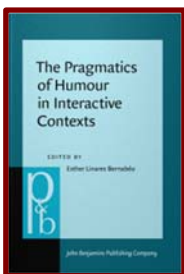
Massih Zekavat and Tabea Scheel (2023). *Satire, Humor, and Environmental Crises (1st ed.)*. Routledge, 248 pp., E-ISBN: 978-1-0030-5514-3



*From the Publisher:* This book explores how satire and humor can be employed to address and mitigate ecological crises at individual and collective levels. Besides scientific and technological endeavors, solutions to ecological crises must entail social and communicative reform to persuade citizens, corporations, organizations, and policymakers to adopt more sustainable lifestyles and policies. This monograph reassesses environmental behavior and messaging and explores the promises of humorous and satiric communication therein. It draws upon a solid and interdisciplinary theoretical foundation to explicate the individual, social, and ecospheric determinants of behavior. Creative works of popular culture across various modes of expression, including *The Simpsons*, *Last Week Tonight with John Oliver*, and *The New Yorker* cartoons, are examined to illustrate the strong if underappreciated relationship between humor and the environment. This is followed by a discussion of the instruments and methodological subtleties involved in measuring the impacts of humor and satire in environmental advocacy for the purpose of conducting empirical research. More broadly, the book aspires to participate in urgent cultural and political discussions about how we can evaluate and intervene in the full diversity of environmental crises, engage a broad set of internal and external partners and stakeholders, and develop models for positive social and environmental transformations.

### The Pragmatics of Humour in Interactive Contexts

Esther Linares Bernabeu, Ed. (2023). *The Pragmatics of Humor in Interactive Contexts*. John Benjamins, 239 pp., ISBN-13: 978-9-0272-1387-7; E-ISBN: 978-9-0272-4975-3



*From the Publisher:* Recent years have seen a burgeoning interest in interactional humour from social and pragmatic perspectives, with fascinating results. *The Pragmatics of Humour in Interactive Contexts* gathers some of the most recent work on humour in interaction, with contributions taking (meta)pragmatic approaches to the analysis of various genres of interactive humour in both online and offline settings. This volume illustrates that a range of methodologies and perspectives can be applied to the study of such a complex phenomenon. These include analyses with a cognitive orientation and with multimodal approaches, work based on Relevance Theory, the General Theory of Verbal Humour, and Conversation Analysis, among others.

## Recent Articles in Humor Studies

*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 articles published since January 2023. If you have a recent publication, let us know. We will include it in a future newsletter.

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