

The Humorous Times

Newsletter of the International Society for Humor Studies

Fall 2008

Ralph Mueller, Editor

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Association News

2008 Membership and Finances

From Martin Lampert, ISHS Executive Secretary-Treasurer



In 2008, the International Society for Humor Studies had its largest membership year in its 20 year history with 356 affiliates, including 339 new and returning members and 17 Consulting Editors of the journal, *HUMOR*. Currently, society members include humor researchers from 40 states in the USA and from 43 other countries, including the United Kingdom, Germany, Japan, China, and Australia. As of November 15, 2008, the Society also continued to be financially sound with \$42,685.24 in unaudited revenue including \$15,935.24 carried over from 2007 and \$26,750 from 2008 Membership fees. Operating expenses included \$194.05 for postage and \$747.24 for supplies with an anticipated \$21,869 for our membership subscriptions to *HUMOR: International Journal of Humor Research*. Revenue over expenses at the end of November is anticipated to be \$19,874.95. Holy Names University also received an additional \$1,287 in donations for the ISHS Scholarship Fund. From this fund, the Society made three \$175 awards in 2008 to graduate students to assist with their membership dues and registration fees to the 20th ISHS Conference in Alcalá de Henares, Spain.

I would once again 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 membership applications. On Page 8 of this Newsletter, you will find a 2009 ISHS Membership Application. Regular and Student dues, with a subscription to the journal, *HUMOR*, are still \$89 and \$79, respectively. Associate membership, without the journal, is just \$30. However, Regular and Student Members who renew by January 31 can take a \$5 discount on their dues and, and if they choose, donate this amount to the ISHS Scholarship Fund. If every current ISHS member renewed by January 31 and made a \$5 donation, the Society would have over \$1,500 this year to sponsor scholars and students attending the 21st ISHS Conference in Long Beach, California. Information on how to apply for a Scholarly Contribution or Graduate Student Award is provided on page 4 of this newsletter and on the ISHS website at www.humorstudies.org.

I also hope that you will take some time to read though this quarter's Newsletter, and especially, to look over the news on this past summer's conference in Alcalá de Henares, Spain and on the upcoming ISHS Conference in Long Beach, California. You will also find some news about a special issue of the Society's Journal, *HUMOR: International Journal of Humor Research*.

Finally, to the entire ISHS community, thank you for your ongoing support of the Society. Your involvement helps ISHS to advance the importance of humor research and, as always, is greatly appreciated.



For more ISHS news, visit us on the web at www.humorstudies.org.

ISHS Conference News



The 20th Conference of the International Society for Humor Studies

Alcalá de Henares, Spain, July 7-11, 2008

The 20th annual conference of the International Society for Humor Studies took place in Alcalá de Henares, Spain. Hosted by the General Foundation of the University of Alcalá (FGUA), the Conference welcomed over 150 participants and guests from 35 countries and four continents. Conference Convener Juan García Cerrada opened the five day event on the afternoon of July 7 with a formal welcome and reception. From Tuesday, July 8 to Friday, July 11, delegates attended three plenary addresses and 121 oral presentations.

Plenary addresses included ISHS President Christie Davies' presentation on the jokes created by and about Spanish speaking people, which focused largely on the portrayals of the Spanish speaking characters in television comedies. Alice Isen (Cornell University) spoke on the effects of positive affect, in particular the affect produced by humor, on cognitive flexibility, and Lydia Amir (Tel Aviv University) reviewed the role of the comic within the history of philosophy. Paper sessions included a day-long symposium on Gelatophobia (the fear of being laughed at), organized by Willibald Ruch and Rene Proyer (University of Zurich, Switzerland), and individual panels on humor in literature, linguistics, cross-cultural interaction, education, psychology, and politics. Some notable papers included "Folk Religion and the Ritual Performance of Laughter in Japan" (Goh Abe, Oita University, Japan), "Laughter: Nature or Culture?" (Moira Smith, Indiana University, USA), "The Pun is Mightier than the Sword: Types of Punning in Anti-American Proverbs" (Anna Litovkina, János Kodolányi University, Hungary), "Humor, Emotional Intelligence, Social Competence, and Psychological Well-Being" (Bruce Findley, Swinburne University of Technology, Australia), and "Who said Arabs have no Sense of Humor?" (Raoudha Kammoun, University of Manouba, Tunisia). In particular, the Society



Moira Smith talks
on "Laughter:
Nature or Culture?"

recognized three outstanding graduate student papers and awarded their presenters certificates of merit and monetary stipends. These awards went to "Ethnic Jokes or Ethical Jokes: The Role of Humor in Propaganda War" (Liisi Laineste, Center for Cultural History and Folkloristics, Estonia), "Is Humour Different at Work?" (Maren Rawlings, University of Melbourne, Australia), and "Perceptions of Aggressive Humor in Gelatophobes, Gelatophiles, and Katagelaticists" (Andrea Samson, University of Fribourg, Switzerland).

In the evening, the Conference offered a number of special events. On Tuesday, delegates visited the Factory of Humor in Alcalá for the Inauguration of the World Press Cartoon Exhibition. On Wednesday, the Conference celebrated the recent publication in Spanish of Rod Martin's book, *The Psychology of Humor*, and on Thursday, delegates were treated to an exhibit of Spanish comic art in the historic town of Siquenza, followed by a tour of the city and the Conference banquet at the Parador



Delegates were received by Don
Quijote and Sancho Panza.



Pepe Viñuelas at
the final session

de Siqüenza. And on the closing afternoon, Spanish comic Pepe Viñuelas, with his own brand of slapstick humor, gave the final Conference presentation.

The Society's Annual Business meeting ended the Conference. At the Business meeting, Conference organizers, Juan García Cerrada, Begoña Carbelo Baquero, and Carmen Valero-Garcés thanked their advisory committee and the General Foundation staff for their assistance and work to produce the 2008 ISHS Conference. 2009 Conference Convener Amy Bippus gave an overview of the 2009 Conference in Long Beach, California, and ISHS President Christie Davies closed the Conference with the Society's Annual Report and special awards to the Conference Organizers for their service to ISHS.

Reflections on the 2008 ISHS Conference



Raoudha Kammoun, English Department, University of Manouba, Tunisia. Although I have been an ISHS-member for several years now, this has been the first time for me to take part in a humor conference. I could not dream of a more beautiful place for a conference and also a more relevant one regarding humor.

Javier Muñoz-Basols, Medieval & Modern Languages, Oxford University. I was impressed by the quality and scope of all the presentations I attended, especially the papers delivered by the Japanese team on Japanese humor, which I found particularly interesting and innovating. It was also nice to meet new people who are active members ISHS and exchange valuable information.



Vicky Manteli, Department of English Studies, University of Athens, Greece. I had been doing research on the revival of Aristophanes' comedy for four years before I learnt about the ISHS conference through a friend. I believe that I learnt quite a lot of things there and met some interesting people.

Junichiro Sano, Soka University, Japan. I feel lucky to be one of those who have been able to attend all ISHS conference except Chicago during the last 12 years. Every time I join the conference, I am very moved by the hard-working staff. Our studies and delights are always supported by their great work behind the scenes.



The 21st Conference of the International Society for Humor Studies Long Beach, California, June 17-20, 2009

From Amy Bippus, California State University, Long Beach

Preparations for the 2009 ISHS Conference are on the move, and you can now find Conference information on the Conference website at www.ISHS2009.com. Here you will find information on registration and paper submissions as well as the conference agenda, accommodation and transportation options, and lists of local activities.

The conference site and accommodation are located on the campus of the California State University Long Beach (CSULB), about 5 miles away from the center of the city of Long Beach and about 4 miles from the nearest beach. In Spring 2009, we will contact registered participants to help them plan local sightseeing excursions and a comedy night. So, the excitement is building, and we look forward to seeing you in Long Beach.

Call for Proposals for the 21st ISHS Conference

For the 2009 ISHS Conference, scholars, professionals, and students are invited to submit 250 word proposals for papers, posters, and colloquia, and panels related to humor research. You can submit a proposal, beginning on December 1st, on the website at www.ISHS2009.com. The deadline for submissions is March 1, 2009. An ISHS Program Committee will evaluate all entries and provide notification of acceptance by March 23, 2009.

All prospective paper presenters must register for the entire conference and pay registration fees at the time that they submit their proposal. Presentations should be planned according to the following guidelines:

- Colloquia and panels should be designed for 75 minute sessions with up to four presenters.
- Individual papers should be planned for 15 minute presentations.
- Poster sessions will run for 75 minutes, and each poster will have a 4 by 5 foot space for presentation.

If you have questions about submissions, you can e-mail Conference Convener Amy Bippus at ISHS2009@yahoo.com.

2009 Conference Awards and Scholarships

In 2006, the ISHS Executive Board established Scholarly Contribution and Graduate Student Awards to acknowledge individuals presenting notable humor research at ISHS Conferences. These awards include stipends to cover Conference fees, and up to four awards may be given annually, depending on available funding. Scholarly Contribution Awards (SCA) are intended to honor individuals who have made outstanding contributions to humor research through high quality publications, conference presentations, and other scholarly activities. SCA recipients present their research in a Conference plenary session. Any ISHS member may submit SCA nominations to the ISHS Awards Committee.

All ISHS graduate student members, planning to attend the 2009 ISHS Conference in Long Beach, are eligible to apply for a Graduate Student Award (GSA). As part of their conference application, interested students must submit (1) a letter of intent to compete for a GSA, (2) a description of their research program within humor studies, (3) a presentation proposal, and (4) all required registration materials and fees. GSA recipients present their work at a special session of the annual conference and receive (1) a certificate of achievement, (2) a stipend to reimburse their Conference registration fees, and (3) waived fees to selected ISHS-endorsed seminars and workshops.

Additional information on Scholarly Contribution and Graduate Student Awards can be found on the ISHS website at www.humorstudies.org.



For more 2009 Conference information, visit the 2009 Conference website at www.ISHS2009.com.

Journal News

For Winter 2009, *HUMOR: International Journal of Humor Research* is pleased to announce a special double issue on Gelatophobia (the fear of being laughed at). In this issue of *HUMOR* 22, Willibald Ruch and Rene Proyer (University of Zurich) and their colleagues from around the globe provide twelve reports on this phenomenon. Of special interest is an international collaboration that involved researchers (many ISHS members) from 73 countries.

Regular and Student ISHS Members receive an annual subscription to *HUMOR*, which publishes peer reviewed articles and book reviews. Members who renew by January 31, 2009, will receive this special issue in the Society's first journal mailing of the year.

International Summer School on Humor and Laughter



8th International Summer School and Symposium on Humor and Laughter

Galati, Romania, June 23 -28, 2008

The 8th International Humour Summer School and Symposium was held in Galati, Romania and was hosted by “Dunarea de Jos” University of Galati, Romania from June 23-28, 2008 (details can be found on <http://humoursummerschool.org/08/>). The event was kindly supported by Galati City Hall and Galati City Council. The sponsors of the event were Vega Hotel, Zona Libera Galati, and Administratia Pietelor Galati.

The Organizing & Programme Committee for the 2008 Humour Summer School was made up of Prof. Dr. Willibald Ruch (University of Zurich), Dr. Graeme Ritchie (University of Aberdeen), and Dr. Diana Elena Popa (“Dunarea de Jos” University of Galati).

The Summer School was attended by 22 participants (undergraduate, postgraduate, and academics) from ten countries. Just as in previous Humour Summer Schools, research students and experienced researchers considering or conducting research in the field of humour and laughter gathered together to exchange ideas, discuss methodology, and evaluate the research findings to date.

Lectures were given by Dr. Dorota Brzozowska (Opole University), Prof. Dr. Christie Davies (University of Reading), Dr. Jessica Milner Davis (University of Sydney), Dr. Christian Hempelmann (Hakia Inc), Dr. Giseline Kuipers (University of Amsterdam), Dr. Diana Popa (Dunarea de Jos University of Galati), Dr. Graeme Ritchie (University of Aberdeen), Prof. Dr. Willibald Ruch (University of Zürich), and Andrea Samson (University of Fribourg). Meet the Lecturer sessions were part of this year’s programme: participants could sign up for one-to-one discussions with the lecturers of their choice.



9th International Summer School and Symposium on Humor and Laughter

Granada, Spain, June 29 to July 4, 2009

The 9th International Summer School and Symposium on Humour and Laughter will take place in Granada, Spain from June 29 to July 4. Dr. Hugo Carretero Dios (University of Granada) and his team will be the local organizers. More information will appear soon on the Internet: <http://www.humoursummerschool.org/09/>.

As in past years, the aims and objectives of the 2009 Summer School will be to ensure that both new research students, just beginning their research careers, and already-trained researchers, considering a first research project on humor, will enter the field with a strong foundation in existing theoretical and methodological issues.

Bids to host future Summer Schools are currently being accepted and are encouraged. Details are available at the summer school website: <http://humoursummerschool.org/contact.html>. People interested should contact Willibald Ruch (w.ruch@psychologie.uzh.ch). A panel of previous Summer School conveners form an advisory board and will help with details.



All International Summer Schools and Symposia are ISHS endorsed!

Upcoming Events

Histories of Humour and Laughter

Newnham College, Cambridge, England, March 13, 2009

Newnham College in Cambridge, England will hold a workshop, intended to bring together the work of scholars who have looked at laughter and humour in contrasting historical periods and geographical regions, in order to gain insight into the theoretical schemes and chronologies which can make sense of humour, laughter, and the emotions. Papers for the workshop will be circulated prior to the workshop to encourage a more interactive event. Scholars interested in participating should submit abstracts of up to 250 words to Lucy Delap, University of Cambridge (lmd11@cam.ac.uk) by January 10, 2009.

Association for Applied and Therapeutic Humor Conference

Las Vegas, Nevada, USA, April 2-5, 2009

The Association for Applied and Therapeutic Humor will celebrate its twenty-second year with a conference on *Healthy Humor: Hitting the Wellness Jackpot!* The 2009 AATH Conference has special registration incentives for ISHS members! CE units are also available for nurses, social workers, psychologists, teachers and HR professionals. For further information, please visit the web on <http://www.aath.org/conference.htm>.

Deus Ridens. The Redemptive Power of Humor in Religion

University of Antwerp, Belgium, April 20-21, 2009

At the start of the third millennium, religion once again became an extremely important topic in societal debates. Unfortunately, the disintegrating aspects of religion are emphasized. There are also more constructive aspects of religion. Humor, for example, has always played a very important role in all religions. Though the importance of humor both in and for religions is recognized, it has been rarely studied in a scholarly context.

In collaboration with various institutions, the University Centre Saint-Ignatius Antwerp (cf. www.ucsia.org) is organizing an interdisciplinary workshop with international scholars on the importance of humor in and on religion. Deadline for proposals is December, 1, 2008. An application form can be found under the Conferences and Seminars page on the ISHS website at www.humorstudies.org. For more information, contact Heleen Van Nyen at heleen.vannyen@student.kuleuven.be.

Le Tour du Monde d'Astérix: Lectures, Traductions, Interprétations

Université Paris 3 – Sorbonne Nouvelle, October 30-31, 2009

On the occasion of the 50th birthday of the cartoon character Asterix, Claude Delmas and Christine Raguet will hold a workshop on the fictional universe of Asterix, its links to the contemporary world, and its reinvention in various media. The conference language is French. Please send proposals to colloque.asterix2009@yahoo.fr by January 31, 2009. For more information, please visit on the internet, www.fabula.org/actualites/article26197.php.

Member News

Monograph on Humor in Linguistics, Literature, and Cultural Studies

Carmen Valero-Garcés, University of Alcalá, requests submissions for a monograph on humor and its relation to linguistics, translation, cultural studies, and literature to be published in late 2009. The monograph will be part of the series, *English in the World*, published through the University of Valencia, Spain (<http://www.uv.es/sancheza/>). Scholars and researchers who wish to contribute to this volume should contact Carmen Valero Garcés, University of Alcalá, (Tel: + 34 91 885 53 47/44 41, Fax: + 34 91 885 44 45; Email: carmen.valero@uah.es).

New Website for the Australian Humour Studies Network

Jessica Milner Davis, University of Sydney, announces that AHSN is now the Australasian Humour Studies Network—note, Studies, not Scholars, as before. It also has a new website: www.usyd.edu.au/humourstudies. The site has many exciting new features, more links to internet resources, links to and reviews of recent books by AHSN members, and quite a few cartoons and pictures (you'll enjoy some of the recent Alcalá ones).

Awards for Humorous Writing

ISHS Board Member Lorene Birden reports that Winning Writers has awards available for humorous poetry and prose. The eighth annual *Wergle Flomp Humor Poetry Contest* promises fifteen cash prizes totaling \$3,336.40, with a top prize of \$1,359. The *Tom Howard Short Story, Essay & Prose Contest* offers sixteen cash prizes totaling \$5,350 with a top prize of \$2,000. The latter is open to all genres, but welcomes explicitly humorous contributions. The online submission deadlines for these competitions are March 31, 2009. For more information, visit <http://www.winningwriters.com>.

Book Discounts

For 2009, the International Society for Humor Studies is once again pleased to announce 20% to 60% discounts on books in Mouton DeGruyter's Humor Research series and 35% discounts on all of the books in Wayne State University's Humor in Life and Letters series. Books in the Life and Letters series include:

Understanding Humor in Japan

Jessica Milner Davis, Ed. (2006)

Performing Marginality

Joanne R. Gilbert (2004)

Writing Humor

Mary Ann Rishel (2002)

Humor in Borges

Rene de Costa (2000)

Taking Penguins to the Movies

Emil Draitser, (1998)

Laughing Feminism

Audrey Bilger (1998)

Tilting at Mortality

David M. Craig (1997)

Comedian as Confident Man

Will Kaufman (1997)

Humor Prism in Twentieth Century America

Joseph Boskin (1997)

Ironic Temper and Comic Imagination

Morton Gurewitch (1994)

Untamed and Unabashed

Regina Barreca (1994)

Campaign Comedy

Gerald Gardner (1994)

Jewish Wry

Sarah B. Cohen (1992)

Never Try to Teach a Pig to Sing

Alan Dundes & Carl Pagter, (1991)



ISHS Members, to receive order forms and/or promotions codes for these book discounts, contact the Society at ISHS@hnu.edu.

Contributions and Submissions

Many thanks to Amy Bippus, Lorene Birden, Martin Lampert, Jessica Milner Davis, Diana Popa, Carmen Valero-Garcés, and Till Weingärtner for their valuable contributions to this newsletter. The next issue of *The Humorous Times* is due out in Winter 2009. Please send news items and announcements to Ralph Mueller, Editor, at ralph.mueller@unifr.ch.



International Society for Humor Studies

2009 Membership Application

Please use this form to join or renew with ISHS for 2009.



About ISHS

The International Society for Humor Studies 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.

Membership Benefits

2009 ISHS members receive:

- a subscription to Volume 22 of *HUMOR: International Journal of Humor Research*
- a one-year subscription to the Society's Newsletter
- reduced registration fees to annual ISHS Humor Conferences and to ISHS-sponsored seminars
- discounts on humor research books
- online access to humor research bibliographies and other research materials
- 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:

Martin Lampert, ISHS Executive Secretary
Holy Names University
3500 Mountain Boulevard
Oakland, California 94619, USA
Tel: 510-436-1532; E-mail: ishs@hnu.edu

Fees for 2009 are \$89 for **Regular Members** and \$79 for **Student Members** with proof of student status. Full members who renew by January 31, 2009 or join for the first time in 2009 may elect to take a \$5 discount on their fees.

You can also join ISHS as an **Associate Member**. Associates 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 and Student Members receive these benefits plus the Society's journal.

Name: _____

Department/Affiliation: _____

Affiliation Address: _____

Mailing Address (if different from above): _____

Phone Numbers: _____

E-mail: _____ Fax: _____

Please indicate your interests in humor research:

A. Status and Fees (check status & enter fee): \$ _____

- 2009 ISHS Regular Member (USD \$89)
- 2009 ISHS Student Member (USD \$79)
- 2009 ISHS Associate (USD \$30, no journal)

Regular and Student Members who renew by January 31, 2009 or join ISHS for the first time in 2009 may reduce their fees by \$5. No discounts are available to Associates Members.

B. Donation (enter optional contribution): \$ _____

With your application, you can include a tax-deductible gift to the HNU Fund for ISHS Scholarships.

Total Amount Due (add A and B above): \$ _____

Please indicate your method for dues payment.

- Check:** Checks paid to the Society must be drawn on a U.S. bank and made out to **Holy Names University**.
- Credit Card:** Please provide the following for credit cards. We accept only **Visa, MasterCard, and AmEx**

Please indicate your method for dues payment.

Name on Card: _____

Card Number: _____

Card Company: _____ Expiration Date: _____

3 or 4 digit Authorization Code: _____

Code is on the back of Visa and MC; on front of AmEx.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Note: Card statements will show payee as Holy Names University