

The Humorous Times

Newsletter of the International Society for Humor Studies

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Ralph Mueller, Editor

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In This Issue

Association News	1	Upcoming Conference	3	Fall Book Discounts	7
2010 ISHS Conference	2	Upcoming Events	4	2010 ISHS Membership	8

Association News

2010 Membership and Finances

From Martin Lampert, ISHS Executive Secretary-Treasurer



The International Society for Humor Studies had another very good year in 2010 with 330 affiliates, including 313 new and returning members plus 17 Consulting Editors of the journal, *HUMOR*. At the close of 2010 membership on October 15, the Society was again financially sound with \$43,751.57 in unaudited revenue including 20,321.57 carried over from 2009 and \$23,430.00 from 2010 membership dues and fees. Operating expenses through October included \$371.45 for printing and postage, \$108.29 for supplies, and \$19,636.96 for membership subscriptions to *HUMOR: International Journal for Humor Research*. Revenue over expenses at the end of October was \$23,634.87. Holy Names University also received an additional \$1,195.00 in donations for the ISHS Scholarship Fund. From this fund, the Society made two \$250 awards in 2010 to graduate students to cover their ISHS membership dues and their registration fees to the 22nd ISHS Conference in Hong Kong. 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 2011 membership applications.

We look forward to another great year in 2011 with the publication of the 24th volume of *HUMOR* and the Society's 23rd international conference to be held in Boston, Massachusetts, from July 5 to July 9. For more Conference information, you can send correspondence to Conference Convener Patrice Oppliger at ishsinfo.bu.edu or visit the Conference website at www.bu.edu/com/humor. On page three of this newsletter, you will find an announcement from Patrice Oppliger on the 2011 Conference.

On the last page of the newsletter, you will find a 2011 ISHS Membership application. On the application, 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 2011 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.



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

2010 ISHS Conference Report



22nd Conference of the International Society for Humor Studies City University of Hong Kong, June 24 to June 27, 2010

From Conference Convener, Xiaodong Yue, City University of Hong Kong

The 22nd International Society for Humor Studies conference was held from June 24 to June 27 at the City University of Hong Kong in Hong Kong, China. This was the first time the ISHS held its conference in China. Participants from China, Taiwan, Japan and other Asian countries reached a record high at the conference. A total of 170 registrations have been received for the conference.

Over 100 paper submissions were received for the Conference, they were sent to the Review Committee for approval. This year' review committee included the following members: Xiaodong Yue (City University of Hong Kong), Dr. Qian Jun (City University of Hong Kong), Dr. Sammy Ho (Hong Kong Baptist University), Dr. Christie Davis (University of Reading), Dr. Elliott Oring (California State University), Dr. Salvatore Attardo (Texas A & M University), and Dr. Laura Liao (National Chiayi University, Taiwan). Finally, 92 individual paper presentations were accepted, including 20 presentations in Chinese language.



In addition, one stand up comedy, one performance show, and one therapeutic humor workshop were taken place during the Conference.

On the first day of the conference, a welcome banquet was served in the City Top, a restaurant two separate shows were performed, one by the

at the City University of Hong Kong. During the banquet, mentally retarded members of the Mental Health Association of Hong Kong, and one by Kimie Oshima showing Rakugo (Japanese stand up comedy). The audience was all greatly entertained by the shows. On the evening of June 27, the Conference held a farewell banquet at the Long Men Lou located inside the Nan Lian Garden. The delegates could enjoy the traditional Chinese landscape gardening as well as the Chinese vegetarian food.

In addition, on the afternoon of June 27, 2010, the whole group was taken to Victoria Peak for a spectacular view of Hong Kong. Unfortunately, the weather was not so cooperative (foggy), but delegates had an opportunity to tour the rest of Hong Kong Island and to visit shops and other local attractions.



Conference convener Dr Xiaodong Yue, Prof. Way Kuo, and Prof. Alex Kwan (City University of Hong Kong)

2010 Conference Awards and Scholarships

For the 2010 ISHS Conference, Graduate Student Awards were granted to Clare Watters from the United Kingdom for her research paper of “To the Streets: Italian Comedians and Social Protest,” and Till Weingärtner from Germany for his research on “Towards a Theory of Fictionality in Humor.” In 2006, ISHS 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 2011 ISHS Conference in Boston, are eligible to apply for a Graduate Student Award (GSA). As part of their conference application, interested students must submit to the Conference Convener (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.

Upcoming ISHS Conference



23rd Conference of the International Society for Humor Studies

Boston University, Boston, Massachusetts, USA, July 5-9, 2011

From Patrice Oppliger, Boston University

The 2011 ISHS conference will be held at Boston University in Boston, Massachusetts from July 5th to July 9th. Registration begins on-line on January 15th. The deadline for submission is on March 1st. More information can be found on the official website: www.bu.edu/com/humor. Inquiries can be sent to the Conference Convener, Patrice Oppliger at ishsinfo@bu.edu.



The 2011 Conference will follow the format of previous conferences with plenary sessions in the mornings and breakout sessions in the afternoons. Special events schedule will include a Tuesday night opening reception, a Thursday night comedy competition, and a Friday night closing banquet. Housing will be available on campus. Participants can check in early to enjoy the many Fourth of July activities in Boston.

The University is located in the heart of the city of Boston and is easily accessible by public transportation to the airport and AmTrak station as well as museums, restaurants, and historic or tourist destinations.

Upcoming Events



Quadrennial Conference of the American Humor Studies Association

★ *San Diego, California, December 9–12, 2010*

The 2010 Conference of the American Humor Studies Association and the Mark Twain Circle of America will be held from December 9 to 12 at the Bahia Hotel and Resort in San Diego, California. For more information, contact Jan McIntire-Strasburg, St. Louis University, at mcintire@slu.edu or visit the AHSA website at www.slu.edu/academic/ahsa.



SPSP Preconference on the Psychology of Humor

★ *HB Gonzalez Convention Center, San Antonio, Texas, January 26, 2011*

The Society for Personality and Social Psychology will hold a January 26 preconference on the psychology of humor before its annual meeting from January 27 to 29. This preconference will have sessions on humor and psychopathology, the interpersonal dynamics of humor, and humor's dark side. For more, visit the SPSP website at www.spspsmeeting.org or contact Sean Guillory, Dartmouth University, at seanguillory1925@gmail.com.



Colloquium of the Australasian Humour Studies Network: Time, Place and Humour

★ *University of Tasmania, Hobart, February 19–20, 2011*

The 2011 AHSN Colloquium will be held from February 19- 20, 2011 at The University Club, University of Tasmania, Hobart. A special invitation is issued for students researching humour-related topics to contribute to the Post-Graduate Section on Humour Research. For more information, visit the AHSN webpage at <http://sydney.edu.au/humourstudies/events/index.shtml>.



24th Conference of the Association for Applied & Therapeutic Humor Conference

★ *Buena Vista Palace Hotel & Spa, Orlando, Florida, April 7–10, 2011*

AATH conferences focus on current scientific humor research, as well as applications of humor in corporate, health care, and educational settings. The theme of the 2011 AATH Conference is *Humor, Health, and Happiness: A Laughter Matter*. The Conference will be held at the Buena Vista Palace Hotel & Spa. For more information, visit the AATH Conference page at www.aath.org/conference.htm.



Laughter and Humor in Interaction Conference

★ *Emerson College, Boston, June 23–24, 2011*

Presentations will address topics such as the sequential organization of laughter, laughables and humor in everyday talk, and how laughing and humor-related actions shape identities and relationships. Papers, abstracts, and panel proposals are due by February 1, 2011. For more information, visit the conference website at www.emerson.edu/academics/professional-studies/courses-and-workshops/laughter-and-humor-conference.

Upcoming Summer School



11th International Summer School on Humor and Laughter

★ *University of Tartu, Estonia, August 15-20, 2011*

The next International Summer School and Symposium on Humor and Laughter will be held at the University of Tartu in Estonia in August 2011. The local organizer will be Dr. Liisi Laineste and her team at the Estonian Literary Museum. International Summer Schools are intended to provide students and established investigators planning research projects on humor an opportunity to develop a strong foundation on the existing theoretical and methodological issues related to the scientific study of humor. For more information on the 2011 Summer School, contact Liisi Laineste at liispet@gmail.com. For information on future and previous International Summer Schools, visit the Summer School homepage at www.humoursummerschool.org.

New Books on Humor

Recent Books in Humor Research

Geert Brône: *Bedeutungskonstitution in verbalem Humor. Ein kognitiv-linguistischer und diskurssemantischer Ansatz*. Frankfurt, Germany: Peter Lang, 2010; € 80.00, US\$ 112.95.

This book presents a systematic combination of cognitive linguistics and linguistic humor research. It treats verbal humor as a show case and test case of cognitive linguistic description. The first part focuses on cognitive-discursive approaches, the second part presents case studies concerning the semantic construction and the cognitive processing of verbal humor, in order to describe a differentiated methodology of analysis.

Arvo Krikmann & Liisi Laineste: *Permitted Laughter: Socialist, Post-Socialist, and Never-Socialist Humour*. Tartu, Estonia: ELM Scholarly Press, 2009.

Adapted from the publisher: This text provides a collection of research essays on Eastern European humor. The authors address primarily jokes, but also parody and TV comedy shows, to account for recent developments in post-socialist humor. They draw from Estonian, Polish, Lithuanian, Bulgarian and Russian sources of humor to offer a unique view point for describing the changes in contemporary Eastern European society.

Paul McGhee: *Humor. The Lighter Path to Resilience and Health*. Bloomington, Indiana, USA: AuthorHouse, 2010; US\$ 21.95.

This book discusses the latest research on humor and 1) physical health, 2) resilience/coping with stress, and 3) the brain. Special attention is given to the "Second Wave" of research (mainly in Japan) documenting a positive impact of humor/laughter on specific disease conditions. The book is anchored within the broader context of Positive Psychology. Fifty pages of references are included.

Paul McGhee: *Humor as Survival Training for a Stressed-Out World: The 7 Humor Habits Program*. Bloomington: AuthorHouse, 2010 (US\$ 13.95).

This book contains a hands-on humor skills training program aimed at learning to use humor to cope with life stress. Multiple studies, discussed in the book, in five countries document the programs effectiveness in 1) building key humor skills, 2) using humor to cope, 3) boosting positive affect and 4) reducing negative affect.

Carmen Valero-Garces (Ed.): *Dimensions of Humor. Explorations in Linguistics, Literature, Cultural Studies and Translation*. Valencia, Spain: University of Valencia, 2010.

This edited volume provides a rich collection of essays by international scholars representing various theoretical perspectives and practical orientations in the disciplines of linguistics, literature, cultural studies, and translation.

Book Discounts for 2010-2011

The International Society for Humor Studies is again pleased to offer special members-only book discounts. For 2010, Mouton DeGruyter will offer 20% discounts to ISHS members on all of its book publications, including the *Humor Research* series, which contains the *Primer of Humor Research* (Victor Raskin, ed., 2008). John Benjamins will provide 50% discounts on the hardcover editions of *Humor in Interaction* (Neal Norrick and Delia Chiaro, eds., 2009) and *The Importance of Not Being Earnest* (Wallace Chafe, 2007). Transaction Publishers and Wayne State University Press will also continue to give substantial discounts in their humor research series.

Books from Transaction's *Humor Studies* series with a 25% ISHS discount include:

- ★ *Loopholes: Reading Comically* (John Bruns, 2009)
- ★ *The Satirist* with a new intro by Brian Connery (Leonard Feinberg, 1965/2006)
- ★ *The Genius of the Jewish Joke* with a new intro by the author (Arthur Asa Berger, 2006)
- ★ *Motivation in Humor* (Jacob Levine, Ed., 1969/2006)
- ★ *Farce* (Jessica M. Davis, 2002)
- ★ *The Mirth of Nations* (Christie Davies, 2002)
- ★ *The Morality of Laughter* (F. H. Buckley, 2002)
- ★ *The Game of Humor: A Comprehensive Theory of Why We Laugh* (Charles R. Gruner, 1999)
- ★ *An Anatomy of Humor* (Arthur Asa Berger, 1999)
- ★ *Jewish Humor* with a new intro by the editor (Avner Ziv, Ed., 1997)
- ★ *Life Studies of Comedy Writers* with a new introduction (William F. Fry & Melanie Allen, 1975/1997)
- ★ *The Art of Comedy Writing* (Arthur Asa Berger, 1997)
- ★ *Humor and Laughter: Theory, Research, and Applications* (Antony Chapman & Hugh Foot, 1976/1995)
- ★ *Blind Men and Elephants: Perspectives on Humor* (Arthur Asa Berger, 1995)
- ★ *On the Way to Death: Essays toward a Comic Vision* (A. Roy Eckardt, 1995)
- ★ *The Spirituality of Comedy: Comic Heroism in a Tragic World* (Conrad Hyers, 1995)
- ★ *Sitting in the Earth and Laughing: A Handbook of Humor* (A. Roy Eckardt, 1991)

Books in the *Humor in Life and Letters* series with a 35% ISHS discount 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 Gurewitsch, 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.



International Society for Humor Studies

2011 Membership Application

Please use this form to join or renew with ISHS for 2011.



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

2011 ISHS members receive:

- A print or electronic subscription to Volume 24 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

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 those who choose the online subscription. Regular members who renew by January 31, 2011 or join for the first time in 2011 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): \$ _____

- 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, 2011 or join ISHS for the first time in 2011 may reduce their fees by \$5. No discounts are available to Associate 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