

The Humorous Times

Newsletter of the International Society for Humor Studies

Spring 2011

Ralph Mueller, Editor

Volume 24, Issue 2

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ISHS Conference



23rd Conference of the International Society for Humor Studies

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

The 2011 ISHS Conference will be held from July 5 to July 9, 2011, on the campus of Boston University in Boston, Massachusetts. Registered guests may attend all conference activities, including the opening reception, closing banquet, comedy night on Thursday and all sessions.

The organizers worked hard on the definitive schedule. So far, a tentative schedule can be found on the Internet at www.bu.edu/com/humor: The first day of the Conference will offer pre-conference workshops on Tuesday afternoon (Registered participants and registered guests will be free, for non-participants, the fee for each session will be \$10 (cash only). The pre-conference workshops will include:

- Session #1: 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM: *Explorations into the Effects and Benefits of Laughter Yoga: A Workshop*. Presented by: Martin Lampert (Holy Names University) and Jeffrey Briar (The Laughter Yoga Institute, Laguna Beach, CA), and
- Session #2: 3:30 PM - 5:00 PM: *Testing Humor Theories Via Quantified Data: A Workshop on YouTube's Most-Viewed Comedy Videos*. Presented by: Kevin Nalty

The Conference will begin with an opening reception on the evening of Tuesday, July 5, 2011. From Wednesday through Friday, the Conference will offer a diverse and exciting program of scholarly panels and over 100 presentations and poster presentations. In particular, plenary session will include panels on “9/11 Humor” (Lewis, Kuipers, Greene, Jacobs) and “Women and Humor” (Davis, Sheppard, A. Nilsen). The conference will conclude with the Society’s Annual Membership Meeting on Friday, July 8, 2011.

Additional information (including travel information) can be found on the Internet at www.bu.edu/com/humor. Inquiries can be sent to ishsinfo@bu.edu.

Upcoming Events



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 is Dr. Liisi Laineste and her team at the beautiful 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 <http://humoursummerschool.org/11/>. You will find there also a list of topics and speakers!

Laughter and Humor in Interaction Conference

Emerson College, Boston, June 23–24, 2011



Presentations and papers will concern topics such as the sequential organization of laughter, laughables, humor in everyday talk, and how laughing and humor-related actions shape identities and relationships. For more information, visit the conference website at <http://www.emerson.edu/academics/professional-studies/courses-and-workshops/laughter-and-humor-conference>.

Paris International Congress of Humanities and Social Sciences Research

Hotel Concorde La Fayette, Paris (France) July 24-28, 2012



The congress will bring together humanities and social sciences (HSS) researchers, scientists, academicians, ect. The aims are to promote multidisciplinary dialogue and mutual cross-fertilisation of ideas and methods; to offer a place for participants to present, discuss, and showcase innovative recent and ongoing HSS research works and their applications or development. All areas of Humanities and Social Sciences research are invited. Proposals are in the form of abstracts. Session formats include individual paper sessions, symposia, workshops, roundtables and poster sessions. The languages of the congress are English and French. Deadline for abstract submission: 30 October 2011. Closing date for early bird registration: 29 February 2012. For more information, submission and registration: <http://education-conferences.org/homehss.aspx> Contact: Paris-Conference@analytrics.org

Humor in the News

Antigonish Review's Blue Heron Poetry Contest

From Lorene Birden

Canada's Antigonish Review sponsors the Blue Heron Poetry Contest. This year's third prize winner was Patricia Young for "The Shortest Distance," a poem about laughter. The poem was published in Antigonish Review 163.

Humor and Culture Series

From Wladyslaw Chlopicki, Jagiellonian University, Krakow (Poland)

This new series *Humor and Culture* is intended to attract international humor research. We intend to offer a forum which would bring together different cultural perspectives on humor through the medium of English as lingua franca. We particularly seek monograph studies on humor traditions and humor research conducted in specific countries and/or cultures.

The series is published by Tertium, a Polish publishing house run by the non-profit organization called the Cracow Tertium Society for the Promotion of Language Studies. It specializes in scholarly publications in linguistics, translation and interpreting, and cultural studies, it also publishes dictionaries and textbooks, and through its website (www.tertium.edu.pl) promotes research on language and culture – national and international conferences, innovative publications and projects. The publisher has the academic board which advises it on the books it accepts for publication.

The first volume of the series is entitled *Linguistic Shots at Humour*, edited by Anna T. Litovkina, Péter Barta, and Margit Daczi (see Section "New Humor Research Books"). Forthcoming volumes in the series are: *Polish Humour* (fall 2011) and *Hungarian Humour* (2012). List of contents and credit cards orders are possible online at www.bacteria.pl. For further inquiries please contact Wladyslaw Chlopicki (Editor-in-chief of the series), email: chlopicki@gmail.com.

Looking back at 35 Years of Humor Conferences

REQUEST



We are still looking for persons who could tell us about the early years of contemporary humor research. If you attended conferences in the 1970s and 1980s (e.g. Cardiff, Wales (1976); Los Angeles, California (1979); Washington, DC (1982) Tel Aviv, Israel (1984) or Cork, Ireland (1985), and if you are willing to talk about the promises and problems of early humor research in an email interview, please contact us via email at ralph.mueller@unifr.ch (see Humorous Times 24.1). At the same time, we would be happy to receive pictures!

New Humor Research Book

Linguistic Shots at Humour. Ed. by Anna T. Litovkina, Péter Barta, and Margit Daczi. Tertium, Krakow, Poland. 2010. 233 pp. ISBN: 978-83-61678-16-8. Price pbk: \$15 (=40 PLN) + postage.

This is the first volume of the *Humor and Culture* series entitled *Linguistic Shots at Humour*, edited by Anna T. Litovkina, Péter Barta, and Margit Daczi. The volume grew from several panels on humor research presented in Hungary in 2007 at the International Symposium “Humour and Linguistics/Folklore”, including Humor and Cognitive Linguistics, and Humor in Language Teaching. The volume contains 14 articles discussing various aspects of humor in linguistics by 15 contributors who represent a variety of culture and language backgrounds (Hungary, Poland, USA, Croatia, Italy, Estonia and Bulgaria). Order online at:

http://hatteria.pl/advanced_search_result.php?keywords=linguistic%20shots&language=en

Allen Klein: *Learning to Laugh When You Feel Like Crying: Embracing Life After Loss*. Foreword by Earl A. Grollman. Goodman Beck Publishing, 2011. ISBN 978-0979875588 (\$11.66)

The book contains the five stages of going from loss to laughter: Losing, Learning, Letting Go, Living, and Laughing

Allen Klein: *L. A. U. G. H.: Humor and Play to Help Clients Cope with Stress, Anger, Frustration, and more*. Wellness Reproductions and Publishing, Inc., 2010. ISBN 978-0979875588 (\$40.42)

Contributions and Submissions

Next issue is due in Summer 2011. Please send information, contributions and announcements to ralph.mueller@unifr.ch.



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