

**9th International Summer School and Symposium on Humour and
Laughter: Theory, Research and Applications
University of Granada
Granada
Spain**

The 9th International Summer School and Symposium on Humour and Laughter was held in Granada, Spain, in the Carmen de la Victoria at the University of Granada, from June 29 – July 4, 2007 (see: <http://www.humoursummerschool.org/09/>).

The Summer School was organized by Dr. Hugo Carretero Dios from the University of Granada and Professor Willibald Ruch from the University of Zurich. The course was intended to be of benefit to both research students and more experienced researchers considering conducting research in the field of humour and laughter.

The teaching faculty comprised ten speakers, allowing greater diversity in the topics covered. Lectures were given by Dr. Hugo Carretero-Dios (University of Granada), Professor Christie Davies (University of Reading), Dr. Irina Falkenberg (Philipps-University of Marburg), Dr. Gil GreenGross (University of New Mexico), Dr. Giseline Kuipers (University of Amsterdam), Professor Ilona Papousek (University of Graz), Dr. Beatrice Priego-Valverde (University of Provence), Dr. Graeme Ritchie (University of Aberdeen), Professor Willibald Ruch (University of Zurich) and Dr. Andrea Samson (University of Fribourg).

The programme aimed to provide an overview of the interdisciplinary nature of humour research, by considering theory and empirical evidence, addressing special research issues, discussing methodology and evaluation of research findings to date, and also to consider some of the applications of humour and laughter.

There were also several **Meet the Lecturer** sessions, where participants could sign up for a one-to-one discussion with a lecturer of his/her choice.

Representative sessions addressed topics such as:

- An overview of humour research
- Smiling and laughter: Typology, structure and dynamics
- The evolutionary basis of humour and laughter
- Social theories of humour
- How important is superiority and aggression in humour?
- Aristotle's ethics, the bell-curve and the patterns of jokes and targets
- Incongruity and its resolution
- The specificities of conversational humour
- The production and distribution of humour
- Humour and Social cognition
- Lawyers and dictators: joking about the powerful and types of power
- Humour in teaching
- Selecting scales of humour

- Sociology of differences in sense of humour
- Life of comedians: Personality characteristics, health and intelligence of stand up
- Humour and mental health
- Mood, Emotion and Humour Responses
- What does Positive Psychology bring for the study of humour?
- Humour and physical health
- Studying Jokes: Why and How
- Neural correlates of cognitive humour processing and exhilaration
- Dialect and local speech In jokes
- Failed humour in conversations
- Humour interventions: entertainment or real help?
- Jokes, joking and social classes, Britain. Europe and America
- Fearing humour and laughter: State of the art of research into Gelotophobia

The Summer School was attended by 29 participants. The student body consisted of undergraduates, postgraduate and postdoctoral researchers, and university faculty members, as well as professionals (teacher, consultant, clinical psychologist, health professional, professional clowns working in the area of therapeutic laughter). These participants came from Austria, Belgium, Canada, Colombia, England, Finland, Germany, Hong Kong, Ireland, Macedonia, Slovakia, Spain, Switzerland, and the USA. Academic disciplines represented included Psychology, Anthropology, History of Art, Neuroscience, Linguistics, Sociology, and Educational Science, and there were practitioners using humour in a variety of settings, including counselling, and stress management. The variety of participants' experiences was reflected in the debate engendered by many of the sessions.

The Symposium part of the Summer School took place on Thursday, featuring presentations of the participants' planned or finished research, or ideas on how to implement and use humour in applied settings. The presentations comprised the following short talks and posters:

- Short Talks

Irony and parody as strategies in Soviet visual propaganda in the 1920s and 1930s (Gérin, A.)

«Bloyen laughter», graphic satire and the emergence of separatist discourse in Québec, 1943-59 (Hardy, D.)

Humour and life satisfaction (Müller, L.)

Comedy at school (Nuutinen, P.)

The variations in intensity of joy, fear and shame in Gelotophobes, Gelotophiles and Katagelastocist (Platt, T., Proyer, R. & Ruch, W.)

Demonstrating George and Mary: Where does humour preference fit in an artificial

personality? (Kadri, F.)

Sexist humor and the expression of discrimination against women: a study with men's self-reported rape proclivity (Romero-Sánchez M., Durán, M., Carretero-Dios, H., Megías, J. & Moya, M.)

Item analysis and internal structure of the Colombian trait experimental version of the State/Trait Cheerfulness Inventory (Agudelo Vélez, D., Olave, C. & Gómez, G.)

Humour and cross-cultural adaptation: the role of humour in the adaptation process of Spanish sojourners and migrants living in Ireland (Ramírez de Arellano, M.)

ROTE NASEN Clowndoctors Internationnal (RNI): Practice meets Research (Matuella, C.)

The therapeutic effects of humour and laughter (Gray, A.)

A call to study improvised comedy and improvisers (Eisenbruch, A.)

- Posters

The utility of humor in the familiar education (Sevilla, A. & López Martínez, O.)

Cognitive and affective basis of sense of humour: individual differences between normal and haemodialysis patients (Delgado-Domínguez, C.J. & Carretero-Dios, D.)

On the role of aggression in linking humour with personality (Kadri, F.)

Sexist attitudes, gender of the joke teller and women disparagement humor appreciation (Romero-Sánchez M., Carretero-Dios, H., Megías, J., Moya, M. & Durán, M.)

Spanish trait version of the State Trait Cheerfulness Inventory (STCI-T): preliminary psychometric properties (Carretero-Dios, H., & Delgado-Domínguez, E.)

Political humor as a cohesion factor in Spain (Moreno del Río, C.)

The participants made time for social events. The social program included a wine reception on Monday evening, a guided night visit to Alhambra on Tuesday, an exciting flamenco show with a regional food tasting on Thursday evening, and finally, on Friday evening a closing dinner was held. Granada offered several other exciting social events that took place outside the auspices of the school.

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The *International Summer School and Symposium on Humour and Laughter* was organized for the first time by Willibald Ruch in 2001 (Queen's University of Belfast). On the occasion of the tenth anniversary, the 2010 Humour Summer School will take place in July 2010 at the University of Zurich (Switzerland) and be organized once again by Willibald Ruch and his team. Details will be announced at the Summer School website (<http://www.humoursummerschool.org/>).

The Humour Summer School is endorsed by the International Society for Humour Studies (ISHS).

Hugo Carretero

Willibald Ruch