

16th International Summer School and Symposium on Humour and Laughter: Theory, Research and Applications

Transilvania University of Braşov, July 4-9, 2016, Romania

The 16th International Summer School and Symposium on Humour and Laughter was held in Braşov, Romania, from July 4-9, 2016 (see: <http://humoursummerschool.org/16/>). The event was jointly organised by Transilvania University of Braşov and the Association of Researchers in Theoretical and Applied Linguistics (ARTA) in cooperation with the Advisory Board.

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 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. This year the teaching faculty comprised the following speakers: Professor, Dr. Christie Davies (University of Reading, UK), Dr. Jessica Milner Davis (University of Sydney, Australia), Dr. Graeme Ritchie (University of Aberdeen, UK), Dr. Liisi Laineste (Estonian Literary Museum, Estonia), Dr. Villy Tsakona (Democritus University of Thrace, Greece), Dr. Tristan Miller (Technical University of Darmstadt, Germany), Dr. Hugo Stuer (Senior independent researcher, Belgium), Sonja Heintz and Dandan Pang (University of Zürich, Switzerland), Dr. Adrian Lăcătuş, Dr. Stanca Măda, Dr. Răzvan Săftoiu, and Dr. Raluca Sinu (Transilvania University of Braşov, Romania).

The **lecture sessions** addressed topics from various fields (such as sociology, cultural studies, psychology, linguistics and literature, medical, media and computer sciences):

- ◇ An overview of humour research;
- ◇ The General Theory of Verbal Humor and humor perception;
- ◇ Logic in jokes;
- ◇ Incongruity – resolution descriptions of humour;
- ◇ Why were more and better political jokes told under socialism than in free societies?
- ◇ Political jokes: Content, genres, and commentary;
- ◇ Constructing and Testing hypotheses on the basis of international comparisons: the case of the Stupidity Joke;
- ◇ American jokes about lawyers compared with Romanian and East European jokes about Communist Party leaders: a study of power;
- ◇ From potential to product: Creating and experiencing humour;
- ◇ The long tradition of humour therapy and the theory of humours, East and West;
- ◇ What humor tells about a person;
- ◇ Measurement of humor;
- ◇ Constructing humour through corporeality;
- ◇ Focusing on humour in audiovisual translation;
- ◇ Online and offline joking cultures;
- ◇ Language and image in interaction. Notes on visual humour;
- ◇ Humor and health in the upcoming medical paradigm;
- ◇ Computer modelling of jokes;
- ◇ Computational approaches to pun detection and interpretation.

This year, a **workshop** on *humour research on the internet (digital humanities in humour research)* was held by Liisi Laineste, and one on *FACS – Facial Action Coding System* was offered by Sonja Heintz and Dandan Pang.

Two consecutive time-slots for **Meet the Lecturer** sessions, where participants could sign up for a one-to-one discussion with a lecturer of his/her choice, were made available daily.

The **Symposium** section offered the participants the chance to present their (past, on-going, or future) research and get feedback from the more experienced scholars. The papers comprised the following topics:

- ◇ *Paul Scarron's Le Roman Comique and the Tradition of the Picaresque Novel*
Presenter: Elena Ciocoiu (Sorbonne University / National Museum of Art of Romania)
- ◇ *Ethnic Categories in Romanian Humorous Discourse*
Presenter: Ioana Ciurezu (Transilvania University of Braşov, Romania)
- ◇ *The Performing Arts: The Healing Power of Humorous 'Empowerment' Interventions in Medical/Therapeutic/Rehab Environments*
Presenter: Mariann Martin (USA)
- ◇ *Humour Behind Bars*
Presenter: Jeanne Mathieu-Lessard (University of Toronto, Canada)
- ◇ *The sequential relation between the laughable and the laughter*
Presenter: Chiara Mazzocconi ("La Sapienza" University of Rome, Italy)
- ◇ *The virtue perspective of humor: Validating the BENCOR-Inventory in Mainland China and a first cross-cultural comparison*
Presenter: Dandan Pang and Willibald Ruch (University of Zürich, Switzerland)
- ◇ *Small Chuckles Amount to Social Change. Street Culture, Youth, and the Urban Experience of Gender Equality through Humour and Laughter*
Presenter: Raluca Mariana Pinzari (University of Oviedo, Spain)
- ◇ *Towards a multimodal analysis of the conventional humoristic structures with sensitive topics in the rural community*
Presenter: Violeta Rus (Transilvania University of Braşov, Romania)

The **social events** were meant to offer the participants the chance to bond and create a better atmosphere in the group. On Monday evening, the welcome cocktail was followed by a special event under the title *Dance is Fun*, in which participants experienced both Romanian and international folk and traditional dances. A guided tour of Braşov followed on Wednesday afternoon, and a festive dinner, on Friday evening.

ISS16 was supported by *Transilvania* University of Braşov, ARTA Association, and the International Summer School and Symposium on Humour and Laughter. Without their support the Summer School would not have been possible. Also, Mouton de Gruyter sponsored prizes for the best presentation awards, which were won by Dandan Pang, Ioana Ciurezu, and Jeanne Mathieu-Lessard. ARTA Association also offered a prize for best presentation made by a Romanian student, which was won by Violeta Rus. As in all previous years, the International Society for Humour Studies (ISHS) endorsed the 2014 Summer School.

Other information

The *International Summer School and Symposium on Humour and Laughter* was organised for the first time by Willibald Ruch in 2001 (Queen's University, Belfast).

The 17th International Summer School and Symposium on Humour and Laughter will be hosted by Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana, USA between 17th – 22nd July 2017, having Julia Taylor Rayz and Victor Raskin as local organisers.

The Summer School Advisory Board would like to extend a big thank-you to all those who applied to host the next year's Summer School. The Summer School could not exist without this on-going support from willing local organisers. If you would like to be considered for one of the following years- information on how to apply can also be found in a PDF on <http://humoursummerschool.org/contact.html>... We look forward to hearing from all you prospective hosts!

Dr Stanca MĂDA
Dr Răzvan SĂFTOIU
Monica GOMOESCU