

**17th International Summer School and Symposium on Humour  
and Laughter:  
Theory, Research and Applications**  
Purdue University, July 17-22, 2017, USA

The 17th International Summer School and Symposium on Humour and Laughter was held on campus of Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana, USA from July 17<sup>th</sup> to July 22<sup>nd</sup> 2017 (see: <http://humoursummerschool.org/17/>).

The event was jointly organized Julia Rayz, Computer and Information Technology, and Victor Raskin, English and Linguistics, both of Purdue University. The course was intended to be of benefit to both research students and more experienced researchers considering conducting research in the field of humor and laughter.

The teaching faculty comprised twelve speakers, allowing greater diversity in the topics covered. Lectures were given by: Salvatore Attardo, Christie Davies, Sonja Heintz, Christian Hempelmann, Moira Marsh, John Morreall, Elliott Oring, Tracey Platt, Victor Raskin, Julia Rayz, Graeme Ritchie, and Willibald Ruch.

The program aimed to provide an overview of the interdisciplinary nature of humor 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 humor and laughter.

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

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

- Recent Developments of the General Theory of Verbal Humor
- “Virtuous Circle” of Sustained Humor
  
- Testing hypotheses about jokes; the ubiquitous jokes about stupidity
  
- The importance of history in the understanding of ethnic jokes: Jokes about the French and sex, the Italian army and Irish drinking
  
- The Appearance and Evolution of the Disaster Joke

- Why do Americans have jokes about lawyers and the old Soviet Union jokes about Party leaders
- Validity studies of the Humor Styles Questionnaire
- Laughter, no Humor: The 1962 Laughter Epidemic
- Puns are Phono-Semantics: Computers can do Half of it
- The Terminology of Humor and Laughter Across Languages
- The Rhetoric of Laughter and Unlaughter, or, Jokes and Their Consequences
- The Art of the Practical Joke
- Humor as Play, Laughter as Play Signal
- The Comic Vision of Life Vs. the Tragic Vision of Life
- Funny Business: Humor in the Workplace
- Appropriate Incongruity and the Analysis of Humor.
- The Joke as a Literary Form
- Gelotophobia: the dark side of humour?
- Social Interactions with Humour and laughter introducing virtual agents
- World Knowledge in Humor and Beyond
- Computational Humor: Theory & Practice
- An introduction to humour research
- How to test theories of humour
- The comic styles profiler: Assessing forms of humor that not only tap into personality but also character and ability.
- Positive psychology and humor

Also **workshops** on the topics of:

- Riddles built by computer
- Facial Action Coding System

The Summer School was attended by 29 participants. The student body consisted of undergraduates, graduate students, and university faculty members. The participants came from Armenia, Austria, China, England, Germany, India, Spain, South Korea, and USA.

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

- Fiorina Giuliani "Humor interventions: A literature review"
- Lena Strassburger: Incongruity - from humour to horror
- Ani Nazaretyan "In pursuit of sophisticated humor."
- Parag Guruji "Computational Detection of Pun Words in English Language Pun Sentences"
- Natasha Vashisht "Subversive Laughter: Dissident Humour Traditions and the Carnivalization of Post War Italian Politics"
- Sumaya Daoud "Political Humor in the Arab World of Today: Alleviation or Revolution?"
- Maria Jose Sarrion Sanchiz "Humour in British stand-up comedy: A Pragmatic Approach."
- Doug Pruijm "Why So Serious?!: A Framework for Exploring Failed Interpersonal Play"

A number of **social events** were planned to offer the participants a chance to get to know each other better as well as to enjoy Indiana summers. The events included a Monday get-together at Nine Irish Brothers pub, a local favorite; a Monday night reception at Purdue University; a Wednesday tour of Samara, a Frank Lloyd Wright house and a campus tour; Thursday conference dinner; and a variety of events on Friday ranging from a comedy show to music in a park to Nine Irish Brothers pub to make a full circle.

ISS17 was sponsored by Purdue's PPI Office of Globalization, College of Liberal Arts, and Korean Software Square. The Summer School was endorsed by ISHS. The organizers are grateful to ISS Advisory Board for their advice and support.

### **Other Information**

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

The 18th International Summer School and Symposium on Humour and Laughter will be hosted in July 2018 by the University of Wolverhampton, England, at the university's campus in Telford, Shropshire. The organisers will be Josianne Boutonnet and Tracey Platt.

Julia Rayz  
Victor Raskin