



19th International Summer School and Symposium on Humour and Laughter: Theory, Research and Applications Bonn, Germany

The 19th International Summer School and Symposium on Humour and Laughter was held in Bonn, Germany, jointly by the Foundation “Humour helps healing”, Lisa Linge-Dahl (University of Bonn) and Lena Straßburger (University of Cologne) (see: <http://www.humoursummerschool.org/19/>).

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 sixteen speakers, allowing greater diversity in the topics covered. Lectures were given by: Dr. Graeme Ritchie (University of Aberdeen), Dr. Eckart von Hirschhausen (foundation “Humor helps healing”), Prof. René Proyer (University of Halle/Wittenberg), Prof. Holger Kersten (University of Halle/Wittenberg), Prof. Jessica Milner Davis (PhD FRSN, Honorary Associate, University of Sydney, and Member, Clare Hall Cambridge), Prof. Helga Kotthoff (University of Freiburg), Prof. Oliver Wolf (University of Bochum & DFG), Laura Fernandez, Mieke Stoffelen (Foundation “Humor helps healing”),

Rainer Kreuz (Foundation “Humor helps healing”), Prof. Tabea Scheel (University of Flensburg), Prof. Christian Hempelmann (Texas A&M University Commerce), Prof. Corinna Peifer with Marek Bartzik (University of Bochum), Prof. Tobias Esch (University of Witten/Herdecke), Prof. Evelyn Ferstl (University of Freiburg), and the founder of the school Prof. Dr. Willibald Ruch (University of Zurich).

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.

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 throughout the week.

One participant cancelled at the last minute and refuses to transfer the cancellation costs (for the room). We therefore recommend to warn future organizers considering this person (Mohammed Bassou).

The Summer Schools Program including lectures and workshops:

| | Monday (July 1st) | Tuesday (July 2nd) | Wednesday (July 3rd) | Thursday (July 4) | Friday (July 5) |
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| 8:30 | | meet the lecturer | | | |
| 09:00 | 9-9.30 Registration 9.30-9.45: Moderation by von Hirschhausen 9.45-10: Welcoming by Ritchie | Milner Davis: Bergson's Theory of the Comic: Time and Freedom and their Applications Past and Present | Scheel: Humor@work I: state of the art I (lecture) | Hempelmann: Types of Linguistic Humor Theories & General Theory of Verbal Humor | Ferstl: Psycho- and neurolinguistic studies of humour comprehension (I) |
| 10:00 | Ritchie: Incongruity and its Resolution | Wolf: Grants - how to apply successfully? | Scheel: Humor@work II: How does humor work @ your (PhD) work, and how to proceed from here? (workshop) | Peifer: The Science of Joyful Challenge (lecture) | Ruch: What did Positive Psychology bring to humour research? |
| 11:00 | Coffee break | | | | |
| 11:30 | von Hirschhausen: How to make humor research more popular? | Fernandez: Humor in the Healing Arts – or – What is this Clown doing in my Hospital Room? | Proyer: Humour-based positive psychology interventions | Peifer: Joyful challenge - Practical methods to increase joy and flow at work (workshop) | Ritchie: Surprise in jokes |
| 12:30 | Lunch | | | | |
| 13:30 | Proyer: The dark side of laughter: Dispositions towards ridicule and being laughed at (gelotophobia, gelotophilia, and katagelasticism) | Fernandez: Hospital Clowning and the Four Humors: A Workshop | 2 pm: Excursion | Kersten: Cultural Contexts for the Study of Humor and Aging | Ferstl: Psycho- and neurolinguistic studies of humour comp. (II) |
| 14:30 | Kersten: Humor and the Political Sphere | | | Esch: What to Look Forward to in the Middle of Life | Ritchie: The Role of Language in Humour |
| 15:30 | Coffee break | | | Coffee break | |
| 16:00 | Milner Davis: Exploring the Nature and Effects of Political Satire | Symposium (7 Talks) | | Symposium (7 Talks) | Hempelmann: Humor and Artificial Intelligence |
| 17:00 | Kotthoff: Indexicality and gender in performing female comic figures | | | Ruch: Assessment of humour and laughter: Where do we stand? | |
| 18:00 | meet the lecturer | | | Meet the lecturer | ending session |
| 18:30 | Reception | | Dinner | | |

The Summer School was attended by 20 participants. The student body consisted of postgraduate and postdoctoral researchers, and university faculty members, as well as professionals (medical doctor, dentists, clowns, clinical psychologists, engineers, self-aid group leaders for borderline patients, computer science professional, practitioners working in the area of therapeutic laughter).

These participants came from the UK, Germany, Switzerland, the USA, Spain, Turkey, China, Argentina, Brazil. Academic disciplines represented included Psychology, Linguistics, Culture studies, etc. The variety of participants' experiences was reflected in the debate engendered by many of the sessions.

The Summer School Symposium took place on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons and it featured presentations of the participants' planned or finished research, or ideas on how to implement and use humor in applied settings. 14 participants presented. The presentations comprised the following short talks and posters:

Symposium part I – Tuesday 4pm-6pm

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| 16:00-16:15 | Britta Piel: The Red Nose Principle |
| 16:15-16:30 | Lucia Bugallo: Adolescents creating cartoons: a cognitive and discursive challenge |
| 16:30-16:45 | Karina Melo Saboya: “7 Humor Habits Program for University Students – A Little taste of Paul McGhee in Ceará, The Humorland of Brazil” |
| 16:45-17:00 | Philipp Borchers: Pilot study: structured intervention of humor and laughter training as a therapeutic approach in COPD |
| 17:00-17:15 | Julia Raecke: Fostering Social and Emotional Competencies of Medical Assistants – What Role does Humour play? |
| 17:15-17:30 | Roslyn E. Bacon: Benevolent and Corrective Humor and the Suspension of Middle School African American Girls |
| 17:30-17:45 | Florian Fischer: Experimental study designs for measuring the effects of humour in health communication |

Symposium part I – Thursday 4pm-6pm

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| 16:00-16:15 | Ekaterina But: Humor theories and Ancient Greek poetry: a project |
| 16:15-16:30 | Mattheus Bebber: Contextual Humor |
| 16:30-16:45 | Elena Pleshakova: Connector and Disjunctors: Complex Relationship... |
| 16:45-17:00 | Barnali Chaudhary: Humor in Visual Mode |
| 17:00-17:15 | Lynn Higgins: Towards a linguistic analysis of 'shitposting' |
| 17:15-17:30 | Thorsten Aichele: The psychology of verbal irony: Effects of contrast and absurdity on perceived humor and perceived criticism of ironic utterances |
| 17:30-17:45 | Peter Vatter: Effect of Humor on the therapeutic relationship in treatment of patients with Borderline Personality Disorder |

No Prize winners were chosen but a drinking bottle with the logo of the HHH foundation was given to every speaker of the symposium. We emphasized that it is courageous and brave to present for the first time at a summer school where very experienced researchers are present.

The participants made time for social events. The social program included a welcome meet-up BBQ on the Monday evening, a city Rallye through Bonn for Wednesday including many sights in the city center, local stores and the botanical garden, with farewell drinks with all people who were still in Bonn on Friday evening.

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).

There is no next bid for hosting ISS20 so far. Details will be announced at the summer school website and Facebook pages very soon (<http://www.humoursummerschool.org/>).

This summer school is endorsed by the [International Society for Humor Studies \(ISHS\)](#).

Maria Bley, Lisa Linge-Dahl, Lena Straßburger & Eckart von Hirschhausen