HUMOURS OF THE PAST: 
HUMOUR, HISTORY, METHODOLOGY 

Durham University 
26-28 July 2017

WEDNESDAY 26 JULY

9.30 – 10.00 Registration and coffee

10.00 – 10.30 – Welcome and Introduction – Daniel Derrin and Hannah Burrows

10.30 – 11.30 Keynote talk – Conal Condren (UNSW/UQ): ‘Studying humour historically: some methodological problems touching context, intention and reception’

11.30 – 12.00 Coffee

12.00 – 1.00 Session 1: Humour, genre and cognition (chair: Hannah Burrows) 
Niamh Kehoe (UCC): ‘Great expectations? Applying humour theory to Old English saints’ lives’
Rafal Borysławski (University of Silesia in Katowice): ‘The monsters that laugh back: Humour as rhetorical apophasis in medieval monstrology’

1.00 – 2.00 Lunch

2.00 – 3.30 Session 2: Translating and adapting humours of the past (chair: Delia Chiaro) 
Will Noonan (Bourgogne): ‘Translating “English humour” into modern English: An eighteenth-century perspective’
Yen-Mai Tran-Gervat (Sorbonne Nouvelle University (Paris)): ‘Translating and adapting Tristram Shandy in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries’
John DuVal (Arkansas): ‘Humour in the Song of Roland: A case history’

3.30 – 4.00 Coffee

4.00 – 5.00 Session 3: Chinese jestbooks (chair: Jessica Milner Davis) 
Giulia Baccini (Bologna): ‘A Forest of Laughter - Collections of humorous anecdotes in early medieval China’
Antonio Leggieri (Beijing Language and Culture University): ‘Xiaolin Guangji, Pirandellian Umorismo, and the limits of the joke’

5.00 – 6.30 Wine reception, followed by an optional informal dinner in Durham
THURSDAY 27 JULY

9.00 – 10.00 Keynote talk – Phil Porter: ‘Standing on the shoulders of giants: Editing, adapting and ripping off Plautus, Middleton, Moliere and Feydeau’

10.00 – 10.15 Break

10.15 – 11.45 Session 4: Performing historical humour (chair: Daniel Derrin)
Hannah Burrows (Aberdeen): ‘“The Saga of the Conspirators”: Translating satire across language, time and medium’
Peter Sutton (St Andrews): ‘The “living explanations”: The challenges and opportunities of staging Ben Jonson’s comedies’
Aubrey Mellor (LaSalle College of the Arts, Singapore): ‘Scripted and unscripted humour in Shakespeare’s Cymbeline’

11.45 – 12.15 Coffee

12.15 – 1.15 Session 5: Humour in the archives (chair: Will Noonan)
Elspeth Millar (Kent): ‘Archiving comedy’
François Lavie (Sorbonne (Université Paris 1)): ‘Censoring jestbooks in Post-Tridentine Italy (1559-1596): Methods of inquiry in the Italian archives’

1.15 – 2.15 Lunch

2.15 – 3.15 Session 6: Attractive tricksters (chair: Rafal Borysławski)
Jamie Beckett (Durham): ‘[T]o shewe his lightnesse and [his] maistrye: Rousing complicit laughter in the late medieval Herod pageants’
Dima Mironenko (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem): ‘The inadvertent grotesque in early North Korean children’s films and animation’

3.15 – 3.45 Coffee

3.45 – 5.15 Session 7: Interpreting historical visual humour (chair: Jessica Milner Davis)
Ron Stewart (Prefectural University of Hiroshima): ‘Unravelling the multilayered visual and verbal punning of early modern political cartooning in Japan’
Mariia Guleva (St Petersburg Polytechnic University): ‘Depictions of Russia in Shidai Manhua: Problems of identification’
Angus McLachlan (Federation University Australia): ‘How natural is tickling?’

7.30 Conference dinner

FRIDAY 28 JULY

9.30 – 10.30 Keynote talk – Indira Ghose (Fribourg): ‘Early Modern humour and the culture of courtesy’

10.30 – 10.45 Break

10.45 – 11.45 Session 8: Comedy and Renaissance theory (chair: Indira Ghose)
Lucy Rayfield (Balliol College, Oxford): ‘Humour and heritage: Theories on comic theatre in Early Modern France’
Daniel Derrin (Durham): ‘Comic imprudence: Critiquing benign-violation theory’

11.45 – 12.15 Coffee

12.15 – 1.15 Session 9: Humorous stereotypes (chair: Delia Chiaro)
Anthony Mitzel (UCL/Bologna): ‘The Italian as meme: Fecund stereotypes in the Mediasphere’
Piotr Strzalkowski (Edinburgh): ‘How to read political and ideological humour? Anti-communist cartoons in Shanghai as an example for use of semiotics and the Stereotype Content Model’

1.15 – 2.15 Lunch

2.15 – 3.45 Session 10: Reformation and Restoration (chair: Daniel Derrin)
Lieke Stelling (Utrecht): ‘Mirth joined with the fear of God’: Tension-relieving aspects of humour in English Reformation literature’
Sara Read (Loughborough): ‘Joseph Addison’s ideas about “True and False Humour” in the early eighteenth century’
Lyndsey Bakewell (Loughborough): ‘Better a witty fool than a foolish wit’: Joseph Haines and his fools, clowns and tricksters of the Restoration’

3.45 Closing remarks and discussion

4.15 Conference close