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At whom are we laughing?

If humor is transgressive, what has been crossed?
If subversive, what has been overturned?
If corrective, what progress has been made?
Must humor serve a higher purpose?
Or can there be humor for humor's sake alone?
Together we will attempt to answer these questions and pose many more, even as we wonder: *At whom are we laughing?*



HOFSTRA UNIVERSITY.
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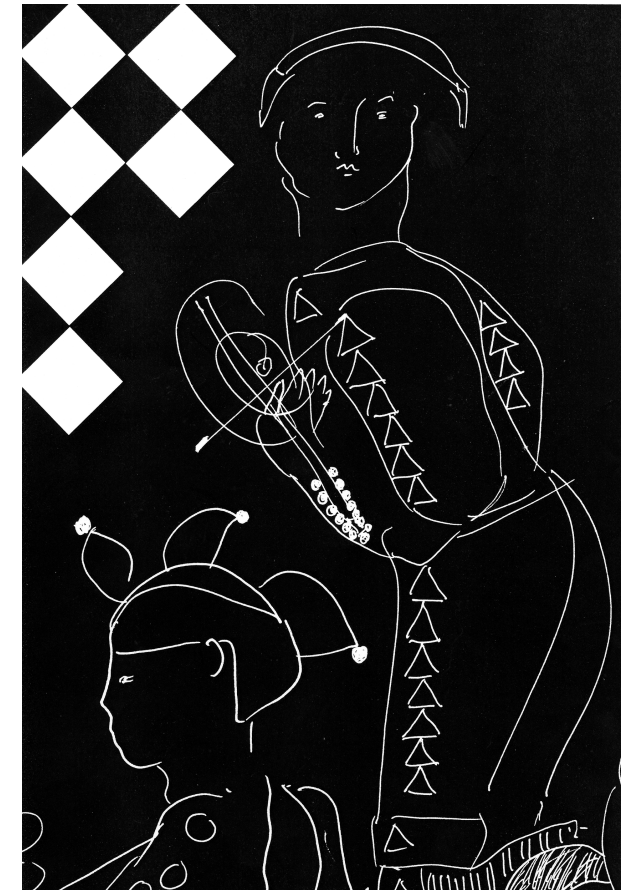


At Whom Are We Laughing?
Humor in Romance Language Literatures
April 10, 11 and 12, 2008



HOFSTRA CULTURAL CENTER

presents a conference

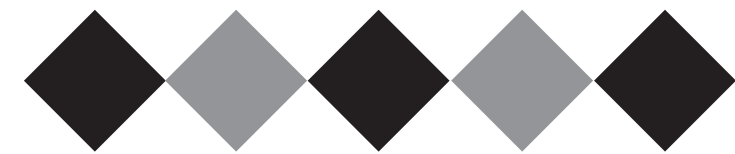


At Whom Are We Laughing?

Humor in Romance Language
Literatures

Catalan, Galician, French, Italian, Portuguese,
Romanian, Spanish

April 10, 11 and 12, 2008



Smile, snicker, chuckle or roar.

Within the scope of seven language paradigms, this conference will explore the traditions of literary humor across social and geographical borders to consider its motives and its functions.

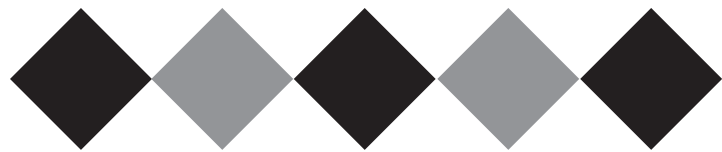


Cover artwork
Wendy Csoka
"Bells, Baubles and Farce," c. 2007.
Pen and ink drawing (sketch for mural).



We invite submissions of papers and suggestions for panels. Papers should focus on literature (poetry, prose, theater, related art, etc.) but can include references to film, opera and other media. Suggested topics can include, but are not limited to, the following:

- The Grotesque, Burlesque and Carnavalesque
- Rogues and Tricksters
- Humor of the Picaresque
- Culinary Humor
- The Commedia dell'Arte
- Wit, Mores and Linguistics
- Folkloric Motifs
- Children's Literature
- The Laughter of Discomfort
- Humor and National Identity
- Ethnic Variations of Humor
- The Vulgarians
- Erotic Tropes of Humor
- The Irreverence of Parody
- Gender(s) and Humor
- The Misogynists
- Shades of Irony
- Satirical Eulogy
- Satire as Persuasion
- Political Comedy
- The Subversive Smile
- Classical Forbears
- The Legacy of Cervantes
- The Concept of Tragicomedy
- Humorous Memoirs
- Humor and the Social Scale
- Post- and Ultra-Modern Humor
- Bilingual Humor
- The Humor of Language and Conceit
- Paradox and Ambiguity
- Humor From Unexpected Sources
- Comic Utopias



Call for Papers

HOFSTRA CULTURAL CENTER

presents a conference

At Whom Are We Laughing?

Humor in Romance Language Literatures

Thursday,
Friday and
Saturday



April 10,
11 and 12,
2008

Papers will be selected for presentation at the conference, as well as for potential publication in the conference proceedings. Comparative and interdisciplinary approaches are welcome. We also encourage the submission of suggestions for panels. Previously presented or published materials should not be submitted.

Letters of intent, two-page abstracts and a copy of your curriculum vitae must be received by June 1, 2007. Completed papers, limited to 12-15 pages, excluding notes (typed, double-spaced and in duplicate), are due by November 15, 2007. Presentation time for papers is limited to 20 minutes.



Letters of intent, panel suggestions, abstracts and completed papers should be sent to:

Conference on Humor
Hofstra Cultural Center
200 Hofstra University
Hempstead, NY 11549-2000
Tel: (516) 463-5669 Fax: (516) 463-4793
www.hofstra.edu/culture

Electronic submissions should be sent to:
hofculctr@hofstra.edu

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