

Laughter as a Political Coping Mechanism: Interdisciplinary Approaches

Friday 28 – Saturday 29 March 2025
Confluence Building, Durham University

Summary Schedule

Timeline	Agenda items	Location
DAY 1: Friday 28 March		
9:00 – 9:30 am	Welcome and Breakfast	CB-0021 and CB-0025
9:30 – 9:40 am	Conference Introduction	Confluence Lecture Theatre (CB-0008)
9:40 – 10:40 am	Keynote 1	Confluence Lecture Theatre (CB-0008)
10:40 am – 12:20 pm	Panel 1: Music and Performance	Confluence Lecture Theatre (CB-0008)
12:30 – 1:30 pm	Lunch	CB-0021 and CB-0025
1:30 – 3:10 pm	Panel 2: Caricature and Visual Satire	Confluence Lecture Theatre (CB-0008)
3:10 – 3:30 pm	Coffee Break	CB-0021 and CB-0025
3:30 – 5:10 pm	Panel 3 (Online): Humorous Resistance	Confluence Lecture Theatre (CB-0008)
7:30 pm	Conference Dinner	TBD

Timeline	Agenda items	Location
DAY 2: Saturday 29 March		
9:00 – 9:30 am	Breakfast	Scarborough Cafe
9:30 – 10:50 am	Keynote 2	Confluence Lecture Theatre (CB-0008)
10:50 am – 12:30 pm	Panel 4: Fascism and Dictatorship	Confluence Lecture Theatre (CB-0008)
12:30 – 1:30 pm	Lunch	Scarborough Cafe
1:30 – 3:10 pm	Panel 5: Postfascism	Confluence Lecture Theatre (CB-0008)
3:10 – 3:30 pm	Coffee Break	Scarborough Cafe
3:30 – 5:10 pm	Panel 6 (Online): Humour in Extremis	Confluence Lecture Theatre (CB-0008)

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Detailed Schedule

Friday 28 March

9:00 – 9:30 am: Welcome and Breakfast – *CB-0021 and CB-0025*

9:30 – 9:40 am: Conference Introduction – *CB-0008*

9:40 – 10:40 am ~ Keynote 1 + Q&A – *CB-0008*

Benedetta Carnaghi (*she/her*), British Academy Newton International Fellow, and Helen Roche (*she/her*), Associate Professor in Modern Cultural History, Durham University, UK

10:40 am – 12:20 pm ~ Panel 1: Music and Performance – *CB-0008*

Moderator: Vincent Trott (*he/him*), Senior Lecturer in History, The Open University, UK

10:40 – 11:00 am: Clare V. Church (*she/her*), Fellow, Institute of Historical Research, UK
Safe, Sanitized, and Altogether Unsexy: Investigating the Popularity and Impact of the Andrews Sisters' Comedic Songs Throughout the Second World War

11:00 – 11:20 am: Jessica Wardhaugh (*she/her*), Associate Professor and Reader in French Studies, University of Warwick, UK

The Limits of Laughter: Song, Satire and Subversion in Vichy France

11:20 – 11:40 am: Klara Beetz (*she/they*), MA student in Theater Studies, Freie Universität Berlin, Germany

Subversive Joy: Utopian Imagination in the Travesty Cabaret of East Berlin's Híbaré

11:40 am – 12:00 pm: Adeyemi Johnson Ademowo (*he/him*), Professor, Department of Sociology, and Noah Opeyemi Balogun (*he/him*), Senior Lecturer, Department of Conflict, Peace and Strategic Studies, Afe Babalola University, Nigeria

Satirical Music as Political Resistance: The Case of Fela Kuti's Afrobeat (1970-1990)

12:00 – 12:20 pm: Q&A

12:30 – 1:30 pm: Lunch – *CB-0021 and CB-0025*

1:30 – 3:10 pm ~ Panel 2: Caricature and Visual Satire – CB-0008

Moderator: Katharina Friege (*she/her*), Early Career Research Fellow, Merton College, University of Oxford, UK

1:30 – 1:50 pm: Yuetong Li (*she/her*), PhD student, University of Cambridge, UK
Caricature in Publications and the Struggle for Freedom of Speech in Germany (1874-1914)

1:50 – 2:10 pm: Vincent Trott (*he/him*), Senior Lecturer in History, The Open University, UK
Political Humour, Preparedness, and the Fear of Invasion in the United States, 1914–1917

2:10 – 2:30 pm: Luciano Cheles (*he/him*), Emeritus Professor, Laboratoire Universitaire Histoire Cultures Italie Europe, Université Grenoble Alpes, France
Graphic Attacks: Satire in Italy, from the 1920s to the Present

2:30 – 2:50 pm: Serena Vandi (*she/her*), Assistant Professor in Italian, Trinity College Dublin, Ireland, and Honorary Faculty Research Fellow at the Faculty of Medieval and Modern Languages, University of Oxford, UK
Naked and Layered: Satire and Power in Three Italian Case Studies

2:50 – 3:10 pm: Q&A

3:10 – 3:30 pm: Coffee Break – *CB-0021 and CB-0025*

3:30 – 5:10 pm ~ Panel 3 (Online): Humorous Resistance – CB-0008

Moderator: Xiaofei Tu (*he/him*), Associate Professor, Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures, Appalachian State University, USA

3:30 – 3:50 pm: Nhi Yen Le (*she/her*), PhD student, Department of Modern History and Society, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Norway
How the Duck Quacked Back: *Vit Đuc*'s Appropriation, Satire, Censorship, and Resistance in the 1930s Colonial Vietnam

3:50 – 4:10 pm: Roman Mamin (*he/him*), MA student in History, Paris Cité Université, France
Pragmatic Horizons of Late Soviet Jokes: Situational Positions, Gender Roles, Discourse Communities

4:10 – 4:30 pm: Valentina Marcella (*she/her*), Assistant Professor in Turkish Studies, Università degli Studi di Napoli L'Orientale, Italy
Coping with Authoritarianism: Humour and Satire in Turkey

4:30 – 4:50 pm: Andrés Francisco Dapuez (*he/him*), Full-time Researcher, National Research Council of Argentina (CONICET), and Research Assistant Professor in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Maryland, College Park, USA
Moral Consumption, Throwing Polenta Away, and Joking about the State

4:50 – 5:10 pm: Q&A

7:30 pm: Conference Dinner – *Location TBD*

Saturday 29 March

9:00 – 9:30 am: Breakfast – *Scarborough Cafe*

9:30 – 10:50 am ~ Keynote 2 (in French with English translation) + Q&A – *CB-0008*

Keynote Speaker: Alya Aglan (*she/her*), Professor of Contemporary History and Director of the Institut Pierre Renouvin, Université Paris 1 – Panthéon-Sorbonne, France

English Reader: Ben Fried (*he/him*), SSHRC/Killam Postdoctoral Fellow, Dalhousie University, Canada

10:50 am – 12:30 pm ~ Panel 4: Fascism and Dictatorship – *CB-0008*

Moderator: Jessica Wardhaugh (*she/her*), Associate Professor and Reader in French Studies, University of Warwick, UK

10:50 – 11:10 am: Francesco Saccà (*he/him*), PhD student in History and Transmission of Cultural Heritage, Università degli Studi della Campania Luigi Vanvitelli, Italy

A Script to Entertain Them: The Humoristic ‘Movie’ Language of *Marc ‘Aurelio* during Fascism (1936-1943)

11:10 – 11:30 am: Alexandra Oeser (*she/her*), Professor, Department of Sociology, Université Paris Nanterre, France

Laughter in National-Socialist Concentration Camps: Social Hierarchy and Political Engagement in the Art-Work of Nina Jirsíková

11:30 – 11:50 am: Natalie Schwabl (*she/her*), PhD student in Modern History in the Faculty of Arts, Languages, Literature and Humanities, Sorbonne University, Paris, France

Coping with Fascism through Humour: Anticlerical Caricatures in Post-War-Croatia (1945-1946)

11:50 am – 12:10 pm: Paolo Scotton (*he/him*), Lecturer, and Raquel Cercós (*she/her*), Adjunct Professor, Department of Theory and History of Education, University of Barcelona, Spain

Joan Brossa: When Poetry Turns into Revolt

12:10 – 12:30 pm: Q&A

12:30 – 1:30 pm: Lunch – *Scarborough Cafe*

1:30 – 3:10 pm ~ Panel 5: Postfascism – CB-0008

Moderator: Luciano Cheles (*he/him*), Emeritus Professor, Laboratoire Universitaire Histoire Cultures Italie Europe, Université Grenoble Alpes, France

1:30 – 1:50 pm: Sophie Dubillot (*she/her*), PhD graduate in History, The Open University, UK
Visual Humour by Returning French Prisoners of War and Forced Workers in Liberation France (1944-1946)

1:50 – 2:10 pm: Katharina Friege (*she/her*), Early Career Research Fellow, Merton College, University of Oxford, UK
Broadcasting Humour: Rubble, Reconstruction, and the Radio in Great Britain and Western Germany, 1945-1960

2:10 – 2:30 pm: Simbarashe Marowa (*he/him*), PhD student, UGent, Belgium and Concordia University, Canada, and Ushe Kufakurinani (*he/him*), Lecturer in International Development, University of Sussex, UK
Social Media and Playful Engagements on the Political Economy: The Case of Zimbabwe

2:30 – 2:50 pm: Xiaofei Tu (*he/him*), Associate Professor, Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures, Appalachian State University, USA
The Role of Humor in Resisting Autocracy: The Case of China with Historical Precedents

2:50 – 3:10 pm: Q&A

3:10 – 3:30 pm: Coffee Break – *Scarborough Cafe*

3:30 – 5:10 pm ~ Panel 6 (Online): Humour in Extremis – CB-0008

Moderator: Benedetta Carnaghi (*she/her*), British Academy Newton International Fellow, Durham University, UK

3:30 – 3:50 pm: A. Austin Garey (*she/her*), Research Scholar, Kennan Institute, Wilson Center, Washington, DC, USA
Visual Humour in European Home Fronts: Britain and Ukraine

3:50 – 4:10 pm: Zlata Osipova (*she/her*), PhD student, Mariupol State University, Ukraine
We Against Them: Humor as a Unifying Force in Ukraine's Resistance

4:10 – 4:30 pm: Alireza Salehi-Nejad (*he/him*), Researcher, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, University of Technology Sydney, Australia
Challenging Authority Through Humor: A Study of The Evolution of Political Satire in Modern Iran from the Persian Constitutional Revolution to the Present

4:30 – 4:50 pm: Aidan Jones (*he/him*), Adjunct Lecturer, King's College London, UK
The Death Penalty, Humour, and the United States

4:50 – 5:10 pm: Q&A

END OF CONFERENCE