

Editor's Introduction

Prof. Lydia Amir*

This issue of the *Israeli Journal of Humor Research* marks the beginning of a new editorship. I want to thank Prof. Arie Sover, the founding and the first editor of the journal. After four years Arie decided to end his task as the editor in Chief of the journal and dedicate himself to other-related works. I seize the occasion to thank Arie for his vision and total engagement with the journal and the high academic level of the articles and the variety of topics that the journal regularly published since 2012. In addition, I would like to thank one of our associate-editors, Prof. Dave Koroktov, that expressed his wish to be liberated from his function in order to dedicate himself to other academic tasks. I thank Dave for his invaluable help and innovative work in the editorials he wrote during these years.

As the present editor (and formerly associate-editor) of the journal, I hope to continue the journal's multi-disciplinarian approach to humor research and enhance its excellence in the following issues with the help of new associate-editors as well as Arie's advice, as editor-at-large.

This issue includes five articles and a book review.

In "Devising Political humor: Highlights from a Greek Devised Theatre Comedy Festival," Vicky Manteli contributes to the dialogue between humor and theatre studies by showing how devised theatre creates political humor. By investigating humor at the text and the performance levels, he informs theoretical propositions to extend the *General Theory of Verbal Humor* so as to account for non-linguistic signs as well.

In "The Utility of Arc Length for Continuous Response Measurement of Audience Responses to Humour," Jennifer Juckel, Steven Bellman, and Duane Varan propose a new measure, arc length, for characterizing continuous responses to audio-visual presentations. This measure of a trajectory over time, rather than static measures aggregated over time, contributes to the dynamic model humor measurement requires.

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In the “Intertextual Face of Humor: A Case Study of *Lauren Cooper Meets Dr Who*,” Beata Mazurek-Przybylska analyses the use of intertextual devices, such as parody, allusion and quotation, in a television comedy text. She argues that while the very concept of intertextual humor can be explained by the superiority theory, the role of most of the intertextual devices in the selected material is to create the incongruities that the audience is supposed to find amusing.

Focusing mainly on the theoretical aspects of classroom humor and humor as a pedagogical tool, in the “Use of Humor in Multicultural Classroom,” Sari Atlatalo and Anne Poutiainen analyze the use of humor in such a classroom. Their aim is to identify the features of the use of appropriate humor as derived from the Instructional Humor Processing Theory (IHPT) and previous research findings in order to offer humorous features relevant to promoting an inspiring learning experience.

In “‘Homo Risibilis’, the Good Life and the Philosophy of Humor,” Sergey Troitskiy comments on an article previously published in this journal (December 2015, 4/ 2, pp. 62-73), Lydia Amir’s “Humor and the Good Life.” While he enlightens Amir’s philosophy of humor through her other publications on similar topics, he takes issue with the thesis of *Homo Risibilis* - the main gist of Amir’s historical studies. He argues that the significance of Amir’s “Ridiculous Human Being” has been highlighted by the Holocaust, and while the relation of this theory to philosophies of the absurd has not been sufficiently clarified, it is the beginning of a necessary discussion about the Modern human condition.

Finally, Arthur Asa Berger recommends Christopher Rea’s *The Age of Irreverence: A New History of Laughter in China* as a “beautifully written and scholarly text” which shows how the Chinese have been irreverent for a long time.

The next issue of the journal will be dedicated to articles read at the first International Conference of the Philosophy of Humor. It was held earlier this year at Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland, in conjunction with the ISHR International Conference.

I invite readers to share critical comments on articles published in the journal, authors to send us relevant books for review, and researchers from all disciplines to submit their articles for publication. I seize the occasion to extend the call to philosophers, whose work is under-represented in humor research journals. Scholars who are interested in the philosophy of humor may join the recently founded International Association of the Philosophy of Humor (IAPH; lydamir@mail.com)