

MEDIA RELEASE

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



It's time to get serious about humour

Academics will get serious about the study of humour this weekend at the 17th annual colloquium of the Australasian Humour Studies Network (AHSN).

The event will be held at the UTAS Sandy Bay campus this weekend (**19 and 20 February 2011**).

This is the first time that the colloquium has been held in Tasmania. Entitled *Time, Place and Humour* the colloquium has attracted delegates from around Australia, New Zealand and Asia.

The colloquium's local convener is UTAS PhD student Daryl Peebles.

Mr Peebles' PhD is being undertaken in the School of Management but he said the study of humour is across a wide variety of disciplines.

"My research is centred on the use of humour in the workplace."

"Workplaces that foster a 'fun' culture may be more productive and more resilient than organisations with a 'punitive' approach to staff management.

"The aim of my study is to determine whether a workplace in which employees are encouraged to 'take their job seriously but take themselves lightly', is measurably 'better'".

Papers accepted for this event come from a range of disciplines including psychology, education, medicine, management, music and literature.

The AHSN is a network linking Australian and New Zealand humour scholars and practitioners in different academic and geographical locations.

The President of the AHSN is Dr Jessica Milner Davis from the University of Sydney.

From 40 members representing 10 different disciplines in 1997, AHSN has grown rapidly. By 2010, the number had grown to over 200 members, principally from Australia and New Zealand, with some from S-E Asia and further afield.

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