



**THE  
HUMOUR  
CONFERENCE**

**LITCRIT  
THREE-DAY  
INTERNATIONAL  
CONFERENCE  
ON**

**HUMOUR: TEXTS / CONTEXTS**

**6-8 DECEMBER 2013**

## Background to the Conference:

**L**ittcrit: An Indian Response to Literature is a refereed academic journal published from Trivandrum from 1975 onwards with circulation in India and abroad. It has contributed substantially to the literary and cultural deliberations across the country since its inception. The 75th issue of the journal is being brought out in June 2013. To commemorate this event, the editorial board of Littcrit proposes to organize a three-day conference.

## Theme and Theme-note of the Conference:

The theme of the conference is Humour: Texts, Contexts. Humour is a ubiquitous aspect of culture that has been largely neglected in the academic domain, but recently salvaged by Cultural Studies. The conference will highlight the interdisciplinary relevance of humour research, from the perspectives of literary studies, education, psychology, anthropology, sociology, politics, religion, philosophy, business, healthcare, and others. There will be invited lectures on the various facets of humour, its functions and relationships, on humour theories, and how humour varies according to culture, age, gender, purpose and context. Papers and poster presentations will be invited from academics, scholars and students from various universities and departments across the country under the following sub-categories:

## 1. Types of Humour

Jokes, Practical humour, Physiological humour, Intellectual humour, self-deprecating humour, sarcasm, black humour, carnivalesque laughter, grotesque humour, violent humour, burlesque, buffoonery

## 2. Humour: Archetypes and Stereotypes

Folklore, the clown, the fool, the trickster, the tragic comedian, the sacred & the profane, intelligence & stupidity, deficiency & disability, obesity, beauty, stereotypes of race, culture, ethnicity, gender, age

## 3. Humour and Literature

History of humour in literature, oral narratives, aesthetics of humour, genres (Comedy, Satire, Farce, Slapstick, Tragicomedy, Folk humour), realism & fantasy, verbal humour, tropes, classical & romantic humour, Gothic, Absurd, children's literature, utopias & dystopias, parody, gallows humour, language of humour, dialects and registers, iconoclastic literature, in criticism

## 4. Humour and Culture

Gender and sexuality, age, laughter (in relation to trauma & relief, pleasure, pain, fear), hysteria, therapy, insanity, insult, religion, family, workplace, urban & rural, morality & ethics, multiculturalism, tolerance, class & caste, as a defence strategy

## 5. Humour in Education

Humour in the classroom, as communication, cognition, as play, in teaching & learning, in curriculum design, in pedagogy, language acquisition, interviews & interpersonal interaction

## 6. Humour and the Nation

Identity, national character, Indian humour, Western humour, American humour, British humour, nationalism

## 7. Humour and Power

Oppression, authority, resistance, empowerment, as defence mechanism, subaltern, hierarchy, centre & marginality, Bakhtin, Foucault

## 8. Comic Subversions

Re-tellings, parodies, translation, adaptation, imitation, centres (heroism, masculinity, morality, intellectualism, sophistication, religion, class, region), reverence & irreverence, rational & irrational, creating humour (workshop)

## 9. Humour and Politics

Political humour, politics of humour, discourse, terror, humour & hypocrisy, illusion & spectacle, shock, chaos, freedom, management & manipulation, in political

communication, rightist and leftist, as defence, political ideologies, corruption, in democracy & totalitarianism

## 10. Women and Humour

Representation, connection & resistance, survival, justice, sexuality, public & private, male vs. female humour, feminism, sexism & abuse, female stereotypes

## 11. Ethnic Humour

Indigeneity, ethnic neighbours, ethnic minorities

## 12. Humour in Performance

Dance, music, theatre, visual arts, business, social work, healthcare

## 13. Humour in Popular Culture

Pop arts, mimicry, mockery, cartoons, comic books, caricatures, violence & savagery, festivals, food, fashion, punk, mass communication, postmodern

## 14. Humour in the Audio-Visual Media

Advertising, television, radio, news media, entertainment media, worldwide web, Hollywood, Indian cinema, video games, censorship & net neutrality

## Call for Papers

Original, unpublished articles and presentations on the themes mentioned above, or on related issues, are invited for presentation in the conference. We only solicit unpublished papers, as we will be publishing a commemorative volume, with ISBN, in connection with the conference. The volume will be released at the inaugural function of the conference.

Last date for the receipt of abstracts	: <b>30 June 2013</b>
Information on the selection of abstracts	: <b>15 July 2013</b>
Payment of Registration fee	: <b>10 September 2013</b>
Last date for the receipt of full paper	: <b>30 September 2013</b>

## Contact

Dr. P.P. Ajayakumar

Email: [littcrit@gmail.com](mailto:littcrit@gmail.com), [littcritconference@gmail.com](mailto:littcritconference@gmail.com)

Mob: +91-9400017065