

# Critical Humor Studies in Unfunny Times

## An Online Roundtable Series

Join us for thought-provoking discussions that delve into how humor shapes and reflects our world, particularly in times of tension and upheaval.



**Saturday October 19, 2024  
7a-12p (PST)**

[ZOOM LINKS IN PANEL DESCRIPTIONS](#)

**Welcome from CHSA: 7:00 - 7:15a  
(PST)**

[CLICK HERE to JOIN WELCOME  
REMARKS!](#)

### Roundtable 1: Gender and Humour in South Asian Performance Traditions

**7:15-8:30a (PDT)**

Even in modern forms of humour performance like stand-up comedy in India for example, there are glaring gaps in the legacies contemporary women comedians associate themselves with. In this panel, we call upon scholars to discuss the various gendered expressions, resistances, erasures, or reimaginings that have been in practice in South Asia today. Further, how do we understand the tensions and solidarities that get built through humour within the multiple shared cultural histories of South Asia?

[CLICK HERE TO JOIN THIS PANEL on ZOOM!](#)



### Roundtable 2: Digitally Mediated Humour in the Global South

**7:15-8:30a (PDT)**

Humour, an intensely personal and contextual form of expression, has also undergone immense transformation in the way it is performed, expressed and received particularly as digital and new media technologies have proliferated, becoming inseparable from any kind of entertainment popular today. In this panel, scholars critically engage with the idea of such digitally mediated expressions of humour and its relation to forces of capitalism, cultural citizenship, and visibility within the public sphere with particular focus on the global South.

[CLICK HERE TO JOIN THIS PANEL on ZOOM!](#)

### Roundtable 3: Humor and Politics from a Global Perspective

**8:45-10:00a (PDT)**

This roundtable will explore the dynamic relationship between humor and politics across diverse global contexts. From satirical cartoons that critique authoritarian regimes to stand-up comedy that pushes the boundaries of free speech, humor often serves as both a tool of resistance and a means of enforcing political ideologies. Scholars will discuss how humor can illuminate political power dynamics, challenge oppressive structures, and offer alternative narratives.

[CLICK HERE TO JOIN THIS PANEL on ZOOM!](#)



# Critical Humor Studies in Unfunny Times

## An Online Roundtable Series

October 19, 2024

7a-12p (PST)

### Roundtable 4: Humor, Conflict and Violence in Unfunny Times

8:45-10:00a (PDT)

How has humor been deployed in the service of dehumanization to galvanize local, national, and international support for conflict, persecution, cultural erasure, and even genocide? And what insights might scholars advance and develop by critically assessing how humor functions as a form of cultural, symbolic, rhetorical, epistemic, and political violence? This session will center a critical humor studies approach by interrogating the relationship between various forms and uses of humor (e.g., memes, jokes, videos, cartoons, etc.), alongside multiple dimensions of social conflict and violence, such as ethnic, racial, and religious conflict and violence, gendered and sexual violence, and/or political, colonial, state, and military violence.

[CLICK HERE TO JOIN THE PANEL on ZOOM!](#)

### Invited Panel Discussion: Why Critical Humor Studies, Why Now?

10:15-11:30a (PDT)

Critical engagement with humor is necessary now more than ever. This invited session will feature various leading scholars who will address the urgency and relevance of critical humor studies in our current socio-political climate, where the proliferation of humor across media, social institutions, and everyday contexts is used to advance all manner of ideological ends. This session will highlight the importance and significance of critically examining humor across the globe by interrogating its centrality to power and inequality, offering illustrations of the ways that humor subverts and/or reinforces the status quo, and the ways humor produces hegemony or work to disrupt it.

**Please stay from 11:45-12p (PDT) for closing remarks and a note on new books!**

[CLICK HERE TO JOIN THE PANEL on ZOOM!](#)

