Critical Humor Studies Association Fall 2025 Virtual Symposium Call

Humor and the Right:
Global Perspectives on Politics, Media, and Culture

Virtual | Nov 14, 2025 | Submit by Oct 17

Humor has increasingly become a prominent tool in right-wing politics and media ecosystems in the US and globally—from comedians, late-night shows, podcasts, and satirical outlets, to online platform rhetoric, far-right radicalization and meme cultures, and as an overt and covert form of political engagement and propaganda used by political leaders around the world. In turn, the deployment of humor is used to spread and normalize far-right ideas, affectively engage and enroll broader publics, and set social, political, and ideological agendas. As a result, such humor is centrally entangled with discourses and ideologies about race, gender, LGBTQI+ communities, immigration, climate change, white nationalism, political economy, and "anti-woke" politics.

We welcome empirical, theoretical, methodological, and/or comparative work at any stage that emphasize a critical humor studies approach and perspective. We invite submissions from scholars in the social sciences and humanities, including but not limited to, media studies, communication, cultural studies, sociology, political science, anthropology, ethnic, gender, and area studies, STS, and related fields.

Themes and questions (include but are not limited to):

- **Racist and Dehumanizing Discourse and Rhetoric** racialization and denigration through humor, comedy, and memes across social, political, and digital spaces/contexts
- **Gender, Masculinity, and Anti-Woke Politics** the gendered and intersectional dimensions of far-right humor used to target inclusive and democratic ideals, and appeal to online youth subcultures
- **Weaponization of Humor** against targeted communities (e.g. immigrants/refugees/racialized and marginalized groups) aimed at justifying violence (e.g. police violence, mass shootings, genocide)
- **Elite Mobilization and Signaling** how political/economic elites use humor for base alignment, in-group/ subculture identity formation, social control, and propaganda
- **Digital Production and Amplification** platform algorithms, Al-generated content, moderation policies, and circulation of far-right ideologies and material
- **Irony, Deniability, and Misinformation Networks** memes, satirical news, and "just joking" defense used for deflection, plausible deniability, and spreading political (dis)information and (mis)communication
- **Transnational and Comparative Analysis** how these dynamics are taking shape in local and global settings around the world
- **Counter Humor** the strengths and weaknesses of progressive/left-wing humor, comedy, and meme culture to counter far-right and extremist ideologies in public discourse
- **Research Methodology** the methods and ethics for studying extremist humorous content

Submission formats
250–300-word abstract; 3–5 keywords, and 100-word bio
SUBMIT HERE: **https://bit.ly/3Iynop6**

Key dates
Submission deadline: **Friday, October 17, 2025**
Symposium: **Friday, November 14, 2025**
Virtual, via Zoom. Time zone and detailed program TBA