

Preface

This special issue of *Eruditio–Educatio on Humour in Contemporary Societies* contains nine articles and three reviews by twelve contributors. Some authors have contributed to more than one study or review for this issue. The fact that four of the twelve contributions to this issue are co-authored can be seen as a positive sign of cooperation in the field of humor research.

Thanks to the multifarious disciplinary affiliations and scholarly interests of the authors, this volume encompasses linguistics, literary and communication studies, folklore, sociology, the arts, anthropology, translation, and education. The volume brings together a wide range of contributions on the genres, forms and devices of American, Croatian, Hungarian, Japanese, and Swiss humor, from anti-proverbs to anecdotes, from jokes to folk poetry. Several studies offer insight into the use of humor in various domains of discourse such as literature, translation, the audiovisual media and education, while other studies draw on gender, ethnic, and legal humor. The articles of the issue are listed, perhaps in a somewhat arbitrary fashion. The first part of the volume contains nine articles, while the final part (Reviews) examines three recent books related to humor, published in Hungary, Poland, and the USA. The issue *Humour in Contemporary Societies* contains three cartoons by the famous Hungarian cartoonist and arts researcher Géza Halász.

The thirteen contributors to the volume represent a variety of cultural and language backgrounds. Nearly all of them are linguists or folklorists, some even both; the majority hold PhDs in folklore or linguistics (Melita Aleksa Varga, Péter Barta, Györgyi GÉró, Judit Hidasi, Hrisztalina Hrisztova-Gotthardt, Anna T. Litovkina, Darko Matovac, and Draženka Molnar). Among the authors of contributions are such established humor researchers as Péter Barta, Judit Hidasi, and Anna T. Litovkina, as well as young PhD and MA students who are now just beginning to undertake humor studies (Peter Zolczer, Erik Dobrovodský, and Melinda Mikusová).

Four contributors reside in Slovakia and are linked to J. Selye University (teachers Andrea Puskás and Peter Zolczer, MA students Erik Dobrovodský and Melinda Mikusová), and one contributor works in Slovakia, at J. Selye University (Anna T. Litovkina). Seven contributors have strong connections to Hungary. Four were born in Hungary and continue to reside there (Péter Barta, Györgyi GÉró, Géza Halász, and Judit Hidasi). Moreover, there is one Russia-born (Anna T. Litovkina) and one Bulgaria-born (Hrisztalina Hrisztova-Gotthardt) contributor who have moved to Hungary. One contributor was born in Slovakia, and works in Slovakia but he is doing his PhD studies in Hungary (Peter Zolczer). Three

contributors (Melita Aleksa Varga, Darko Matovac, and Draženka Molnar) live in Croatia. It might be noted that every contributor to this special issue has at least one thing in common: a love of humor.

As co-editors of the issue, we have wished to reflect the diversity of humor research both in Slovakia, Hungary and Croatia, as well as internationally. We hope that this special issue of *Eruditio–Educatio on Humour in Contemporary Societies* will appeal to a wide range of readers: humor researchers, linguists, anthropologists, ethnographers, folklorists, literary scholars, sociologists, psychologists, cultural historians, film critics, translators, and others interested in humor. We also hope that the reader will enjoy reading the present issue as much as the contributors have enjoyed working on it.

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Péter Barta – Anna T. Litovkina – Andrea Puskás – Peter Zolczer