

# WHAT'S SO FUNNY?

## DISCOVERING AND INTERPRETING HUMOR IN THE ANCIENT WORLD

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY  
APRIL 20 - APRIL 21, 2018

Details & Free Registration at [go.osu.edu/humor](http://go.osu.edu/humor)  
[humor.ohiostate@gmail.com](mailto:humor.ohiostate@gmail.com)



FRIDAY, APRIL 20TH  
SENATE CHAMBER, THE OHIO UNION  
2:00 PM - 5:30 PM

### SESSION 1: GENDER & SEXUALITY

**Caleb Dance** (Washington and Lee University)

Don't Be an Ass: A Textual Laugh Track in Ovid's *Ars Amatoria* 3

**Anna Peterson** (Pennsylvania State University)

Humor, Gender, and the Comic Tradition in Lucian's *Dialogues of the Courtesans*

### SESSION 2: PEDAGOGY & DIDACTICS

**Alex Tarbet** (University of Michigan)

Comic Inversion in the Egyptian Folktales of Herodotus

**Justin Strong** (University of Notre Dame)

Learning a Lesson from Laughter

KEYNOTE: IAN RUFFELL (University of Glasgow)

Beyond Invective: Recovering the Richness of Ancient Theories of Humour



Funded by the OSU Discovery  
Theme *From Homer to the Qur'an*  
and by the Graduate Interdisciplinary  
Specialization in Religions of the  
Ancient Mediterranean

SATURDAY, APRIL 21ST  
TRADITIONS ROOM, THE OHIO UNION  
8:30 AM - 6:00 PM

### SESSION 3: IRONY, RIDICULE, SATIRE

**Irene Plantholt** (University of Pennsylvania)

Laughter is the Best Medicine – Medical Satire and the Critique of Medical Professions in Mesopotamia

**Tobias Häner** (University of Vienna)

Making Fun of the Suffering or of God? – Irony in the Book of Job

**Baukje van den Berg** (University of Silesia)

Homerus ridens: Eustathios of Thessalonike on Comedy and Ridicule in Homer

KEYNOTE: AMY RICHLIN (University of California, Los Angeles)

Truth to Power: Roman Slaves Talk Back on the Comic Stage

### SESSION 4: SEEING & HEARING HUMOR

**Craig Jendza** (University of Kansas)

What Sounds Funny to Aristophanes?

**Jared Ludlow** (Brigham Young University)

Hyperbolizing Exaggeration: Authorial Playfulness in Hellenistic Jewish Texts

**Linda Fuchs** (University of Florida)

Looking at Last Laughs: Verbal Humor Made Visible on the Vatican Jonah Sarcophagus

KEYNOTE: JACK M. SASSON (Vanderbilt University)

Funny Bones (Theirs and Ours): Humor in the Mari Correspondence

### SESSION 5: RITUAL PRACTICE & SPECTACLE

**Paul Hay** (Case Western University)

A Raven's Funeral in the Roman Forum: Public Jest, Populist Gesture

**Susan Marks** (New College Florida)

Situation Comedy – Humor and Rabbinic Mealtime Ritual

KEYNOTE: CHRISTINE HAYES (Yale University)

The Rabbis as Jesters: Humor in the Face of Absolutes