

## ETHNICITY AND HUMOR:

by **Don L. F. Nilsen**  
English Department  
Arizona State University  
Tempe, AZ 85287-0302 ( [don.nilsen@asu.edu](mailto:don.nilsen@asu.edu) )

- Adams, Joey. Joey Adams' Ethnic Humor. New York, NY: Manor, 1975.
- Alford, Finnigan, and Richard Alford. "A Holo-Cultural Study of Humor." Ethos 9.2 (1981): 149-164.
- Ammons, Elizabeth, and Annette White-Pak, eds. Tricksterism in Turn-of-the-Century American Literature: A Multicultural Perspective. Hanover, NH: University Press of New England,
- Apte, Mahadev L. "Ethnic Humor versus 'Sense of Humor.'" American Behavioral Scientist 30.1 (1987): 27-41.
- Barrick, Mac E. "Racial Riddles and the Polack Joke." The Humor Prism in Twentieth-Century America. Ed. Joseph Boskin, Detroit, MI: Wayne State University Press, 1997, 208-224.
- Begum, Khani. "Confirming the Place of 'The Other': Gender and Ethnic Identity in Maxine Hong Kingston's The Woman Warrior." New Perspectives on Women and Comedy. Ed. Regina Barreca. Philadelphia, PA: Gordon and Breach, 1992, 143-156.
- Benatar, David. "Prejudice in Wit: When Racial and Gender Humor Harms." Public Affairs Quarterly 13 (1999): 191-203.
- Berger, Arthur Asa. "Ethnic and Racial Jokes and American Society." An Anatomy of Humor. New Brunswick, NJ: Transaction, 1993, 65-74.
- Berger, Arthur Asa. "What Makes People Laugh?: Cracking the Cultural Code." The Humor Prism in Twentieth-Century America. Ed. Joseph Boskin, Detroit, MI: Wayne State University Press, 1997, 28-32.
- Bluestein, Gene. "It Only Hurts When We Laugh: Ethnic Jokes and the International Theme." Thalia: Studies in Literary Humor 4.1 (1981): 10-13.
- Boskin, Joseph. "The Urban Landscape." The Humor Prism in Twentieth-Century America. Ed. Joseph Boskin, Detroit, MI: Wayne State University Press, 1997, 17-27.
- Boskin, Joseph, and Joseph Dorinson. "Ethnic Humor: Subversion and Survival." American Quarterly 37.1 (1985): 81-97; also in What's So Funny: Humor in American Culture. Ed. Nancy A. Walker. Wilmington, DE: Scholarly Resources, 1998, 205-224.
- Boskin, Joseph, and Joseph Dorinson. "Racial and Athnic Humor." Humor in America 1988): 117-123.
- Bott, Bryan, Robin Bott, and Barbara Fennell. "Titas, Blalahs, and Haoles: Linguistic Markers of In-Group/Out-Group Status in Hawaiian Ethnic Humor." Essays in Arts and Sciences 24 (1995): 77-100.
- Bourhis, Richard Y., Nicholas J. Gedfield, Howard Giles, and Henri Tajfel. "Context and Ethnic Humour in Intergroup Relations." It's a Funny Thing, Humour. Eds. Antony Chapman and Hugh Foot. NY: Pergamon, 1977, 261-66.
- Burma, J. H. "Humor as a Technique in Race Conflict." American Sociological Review 11.6 (1946): 710-715.
- Collins, Melinda. "'When Does a Mexican Become a Hispanic?': Ethnic Jokes in Context." Unpublished Honors Thesis. Tempe, AZ: Arizona State University, 1990.
- Davies, Christie. "Change and Continuity in One of Europe's Oldest Comic Ethnic Scripts." HUMOR: International Journal of Humor Research 12.1 (1999): 1-32.
- Davies, Christie. Ethnic Humor around the World: A Comparative Analysis. Bloomington, IN: Indiana Univ Press, 1990.
- Davies, Christie. "Ethnic Humor, Hostility, and Aggression: A Reply to Elliott Oring." Humor: International Journal of Humor Research 4.3-4 (1991): 415-422.
- Davies, Christie. "Ethnic Jokes, Moral Values, and Social Boundaries." The British Journal of Sociology 33.3 (1982): 383-403.
- Davies, Christie. "European Ethnic Scripts and the Translation and Switching of Jokes." HUMOR: International

- Journal of Humor Research 18.2 (2005): 147-160.
- Davies, Christie. "Fooltowns: Traditional and Modern, Local, Regional, and Ethnic Jokes about Stupidity." Spoken in Gest. Ed. Gillian Bennett. Sheffield, England: Sheffield Academic Press, 1991. 215-236.
- Davies, Christie. Jokes and their Relation to Society. New York, NY: Mouton de Gruyter (# 4), 1998.
- Davies, Christie. "Language, Identity, and Ethnic Jokes about Stupidity." International Journal of the Sociology of Language 65 (1987): 39-52.
- Davies, Christie. The Mirth of Nations. Somerset, NJ: Transaction, 2002.
- Dodge, Georgina. "Laughter of the Samurai: Humor in the Autobiography of Etsu Sugimoto." MELUS: Special Issue on Ethnic Humor, Ed. John Lowe, 21.4 (1996): 57-70.
- Dorinson, Joseph, and Joseph Boskin. "Racial and Ethnic Humor." Humor in America: A Research Guide to Genres and Topics. NY: Greenwood, 1988, 163-94.
- Draitser, Emil A. Taking Penguins to the Movies: Ethnic Humor in Russia. Detroit, MI: Wayne State University Press, 1998.
- Dundes, Alan. Cracking Jokes: Studies of Sick Humor Cycles and Stereotypes. Berkeley: Ten Speed Press, 1987.
- Dundes, Alan. "Many Hands Make Light Work, or Caught in the Act of Screwing in Light Bulbs." The Humor Prism in Twentieth-Century America. Ed. Joseph Boskin, Detroit, MI: Wayne State University Press, 1997, 250-257.
- Ehrlic, Howard J. "Observations on Ethnic and Intergroup Humor." Ethnicity 6 (1979): 383-98.
- Fish, Lydia. "'Is the Pope Polish?' Some Notes on the Polack Joke in Transition." Journal of American Folklore 93 (1980): 450-54.
- Garrett, George. "Ladies in Boston Have Their Hats: Notes on WASP Humor." Comic Relief: Humor in Contemporary American Literature. Ed. Sarah Blacher Cohen. Urbana: Univ of Illinois Press, 1978, 207-37.
- Goldstein, Donna. Laughter Out of Place: Race, Class, Violence, and Sexuality in a Rio Shantitown. Berkeley, CA: 2003.
- Hasenauer, Jim. "Using Ethnic Humor to Expose Ethnocentrism: Those Dirty DEGs." Etcetera 45 (Winter, 1988): 351-357.
- Healey, Tim. "Culture Bias in Attitudes to Humour." It's a Funny Thing, Humour. Eds. Antony Chapman and Hugh Foot. NY: Pergamon, 1977, 464-65.
- Hill, Jane. "Mock Spanish, Covert Racism, and the (Leaky" Boundary between Public and Private Spheres" The Language Ethnicity and Race Reader. Eds. Roxy Harris and Ben Hampton. New York, NY: Routledge Books, 2003.
- Holmes, Janet, and Jennifer Hay. "Humour as an Ethnic Boundary Marker in New Zealand Interaction." Journal of Intercultural Studies 18.2 (1997): 127-151.
- Husband, Charles. "The Mass Media and the Functions of Ethnic Humour in a Racist Society." It's a Funny Thing, Humour. Eds. Antony Chapman and Hugh Foot. NY: Pergamon, 1977, 267-73.
- Husband, Charles. "Racist Humour and Racist Ideology in British Television, or I Laughed Till You Cried." Humour in Society: Resistance and Control. Eds. Chris Powell and George Paton. NY: St. Martin's, 1988, 149-78.
- Inge, M. Thomas. "Defying Limits: Subversive Humor in the Texts of American Minorities and Women." Studies in American Humor NS 3.12 (2005): 45-46.
- Issar, Naresh, Sarah Yee-Way Tsang, Lawrence La Fave, Ann Guilmette, and Khetar Issar. "Ethnic Humour as a Function of Social-Normative Incongruity and Ego-Involvement." It's a Funny Thing, Humour. Eds. Antony Chapman and Hugh Foot. NY: Pergamon, 1977, 281-82.
- Jessee, Sharon. "Laughter and Identity in Ishmael Reed's Mumbo Jumbo." MELUS: Special Issue on Ethnic Humor, Ed. John Lowe, 21.4 (1996): 127-140.
- Juni, Samuel, and Bernard Katz. "Self-Effacing Wit as a Response to Oppression: Dynamics in Ethnic Humor." Journal of General Psychology "Special Issue on Humor and Laughter" Eds. Mahony, Diana L. and

- Louis G. Lippman. 128.2 (2001): 117-119.
- Kersten, Holger. "Using the Immigrant's Voice: Humor and Pathos in Nineteenth-Century "Dutch" Dialect Texts." MELUS: Special Issue on Ethnic Humor, Ed. John Lowe, 21.4 (1996): 3-18.
- Kilcup, Karen L. "Humor and Ethnicity in the Americas/On the Borderlands." Studies in American Humor NS3.7 (2000): 1-4.
- Kuipers, Giseline. "The Difference between a Surinamese and a Turk: Ethnic Jokes and the Position of Ethnic Minorities in the Netherlands." HUMOR: International Journal of Humor Research 13.2 (2000): 141-176.
- LaFave, Lawrence, and Roger Mannell. "Does Ethnic Humor Serve Prejudice?" Journal of Communication 26.3 (1976): 116-123.
- Leveen, Lois. "Only When I Laugh: Textual Dynamics of Ethnic Jokes." MELUS: Special Issue on Ethnic Humor, Ed. John Lowe, 21.4 (1996): 29-56.
- Linneman, William R. "Immigrant Stereotypes: 1880-1900." Studies in American Humor 1.1 (April, 1974): 28-39.
- Lowe, John. "Humor, Ethnicity, and Identity in Jerre Mangione's *Storia*." Voices in Italian Americana 4.2 (1993): 31-49.
- Lowe, John. "Humor and Ethnicity in the Postmodern Novel: Kingston, Reed, and Vizenor." MELUS: Special Issue on Ethnic Humor, Ed. John Lowe, 21.4 (1996): 103-126.
- Lowe, John. "Monkey Kings and Mojo: Postmodern Humor in Kingston, Reed, and Vizenor." MELUS 21.4 (1996): 103-126.
- Lowe, John. "Theories of Ethnic Humor: How to Enter, Laughing." American Quarterly 38.4 (1986): 439-460.
- McGhee, Paul E., and Nelda S. Duffey. "Children's Appreciation of Humor Victimizing Different Racial-Ethnic Groups--Racial-Ethnic Differences." Journal of Cross-Cultural Psychology 14.1 (1983): 29-40.
- Maschio, G. "Ethnic Humor and the Demise of the Russell Brothers." Journal of Popular Culture 26.1 (1992): 81-92.
- Matte, Gerard. "Cultural War and the Fate of Multicultural Comedy!" Australian Journal of Comedy 1 (1995): 55-88.
- Matte, Gerard. "Ethnic and Multicultural Comedy in Australia." Australian Journal of Comedy Eds. Gerard Matte and Jessica Milner Davis. 3.1 (1997): 57-67.
- Miller, Arthur G. ed. In the Eyes of the Beholder: Contemporary Issues in Stereotyping. New York: Praeger, 1982.
- Mintz, Lawrence E. "Ethnic Humour." It's a Funny Thing, Humour. Eds. Antony Chapman and Hugh Foot. NY: Pergamon, 1977, 287-90.
- Mintz, Lawrence E. "Humor and Ethnic Stereotypes in Vaudeville and Burlesque." MELUS: Special Issue on Ethnic Humor, Ed. John Lowe, 21.4 (1996): 19-28.
- Mutuma, Hwenja, Lawrence La Fave, Roger Mannell, and Ann Marie Guilmette. "Ethnic Humour Is No Joke." It's a Funny Thing, Humour. Eds. Antony Chapman and Hugh Foot. NY: Pergamon, 1977, 277-80.
- Nilsen, Alleen Pace, and Don L. F. Nilsen. "Ethnic Humor." Encyclopedia of 20<sup>th</sup> Century American Humor. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 2000, 115-118.
- Nilsen, Don L. F. "Ethnic Humor." Humor Scholarship: A Research Bibliography. Westport, CT: Greenwood, 1993, 219-232.
- Nilsen, Don L. F. "Ethnic Humor." New Mexico English Journal 6.2 (1991): 20-25.
- Nilsen, Don L. F. "Humor in American Ethnic Literature." Humor in American Literature. New York: Garland Press, 1992, 459-464.
- Nilsen, Don L. F. "Humorous Contemporary Jewish-American Authors: An Overview of the Criticism." MELUS: Special Issue on Ethnic Humor, Ed. John Lowe, 21.4 (1996): 71-102.
- Nilsen, Don L. F. "Stereotypical Humor." American Humor 10.2 (1983): 5-11.
- Oring, Elliott. "The Humor of Hate," Engaging Humor. Chicago, IL: University of Illinois Press, 2003, 41-57.
- Oshima, Kimie. "Ethnic Jokes and Social Function in Hawai'i." HUMOR: International Journal of Humor

- Research 13.1 (2000): 41-58.
- Piacentino, Edward J. "Defying Limits: Subversive Humor in the Texts of American Minorities and Women." Studies in American Humor 3.12 (2005): 47-51.
- Piacentino, Edward J. "Humorous Subversions." Studies in American Humor NS 3.12 (2005): 47-52.
- Philips, Michael. "Racist Acts and Racist Humor." Canadian Journal of Philosophy 14.1 (1984): 75-96.
- Piacentino, Edward J. "Contesting the Boundaries of Race and Gender in Old Southwestern Humor." Southern Literary Journal 32.2 (2000): 116-140.
- Safer, Elaine B. "The Double, Comic Irony, and Postmodernism in Philip Roth's Operation Shylock." MELUS: Special Issue on Ethnic Humor, Ed. John Lowe, 21.4 (1996): 157-172.
- Salamone, Frank A. "Children's Games." Ethnicity. 5 (1978): 208-212.
- Salamone, Frank A. "Children's Games as Mechanisms for Easing Ethnic Interaction," Anthropos 74 (1979): 201-210.
- Salamone, Frank A. "Nigerian Children's Games and Ethnic Identity." Review of Sports and Leisure. 1 (1976): 62-92.
- Schulman, N. M. "Laughing across the Color Barrier: In Living Color--Satirizing the Stereotypes--Racial Generalization as a Basis for Comedy." Journal of Popular Film and Television 20.1 (1992): 2-7.
- Schutz, Charles E. "The Sociability of Ethnic Jokes." Australian Journal of Comedy 1 (1995): 89-102.
- Schutz, Charles E. "The Sociability of Ethnic Jokes." Humor: International Journal of Humor Research 2.2 (1989): 165-78.
- Seggar, J. F., J. K. Hafen, and H. Hannonengladden. "Television's Portrayals of Minorities and Women in Drama and Comedy Drama 1971-1980." Journal of Broadcasting 25.3 (1981): 277-288.
- Shifman, Limor, and Elihu Katz. "'Just Call Me Adonai': A Case Study of Ethnic Humor and Immigrant Assimilation." American Sociological Review 70.5 (2005): 843-859.
- Smith, Jeanne Rosier. Writing Tricksters: Mythic Gambols in American Ethnic Literature. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 1997.
- So, Christine. "Delivering the Punch Line: Racial Combat as Comedy in Gus Lee's China Boy." MELUS: Special Issue on Ethnic Humor, Ed. John Lowe, 21.4 (1996): 141-156.
- Wilde, Larry. The Complete Book of Ethnic Humor.
- Winokur, Mark. American Laughter: Immigrants, Ethnicity, and 1930s Hollywood Film Comedy. New York, NY: St. Martin's Press, 1996.
- Wonham, Henry B. Playing the Races: Ethnic Caricature and American Literary Realism. Oxford, England: Oxford University Press, 2004.
- Zener, Walter P. "Jokes and Ethnic Stereotyping." Anthropological Quarterly 43 (1970): 93-113.