

# Contents

Thomas E. Ford, Władysław Chłopicki, and Giseline Kuipers

## **Preface — 1**

## **Part 1: Essence of Humor: What Makes Something Funny?**

### **Section 1: Psychological Processes: Why Do People Find Things Humorous?**

Thomas E. Ford and Julie Woodzicka

#### **1 Psychological Approaches to Humor: The Interaction of Cognition and Motivation — 15**

Sonja Heintz

#### **2 Personality Approaches: Beyond the ‘Sense of Humor’ — 31**

Gil Greengross and Aaron Kozbelt

#### **3 Evolutionary Approaches to Humor: Critical Review and New Advances — 49**

Yu-Chen Chan

#### **4 The Neuroscience of Humor — 65**

### **Section 2: Text Properties: What Makes a Text Humorous?**

Christian F. Hempelmann and Max Petrenko

#### **5 Computational Humor Models and Applications — 87**

Salvatore Attardo, Władysław Chłopicki,  
and Giovannantonio Forabosco

#### **6 The Role of Incongruity in Humorous Texts — 105**

Sylvia Klos and Andrea C. Samson

#### **7 Cognitive Approaches to Humor: Linguistic, Developmental, and Affective Science Considerations — 125**

Alberto Godioli and Władysław Chłopicki

**8 Humor and Figurative Language — 145**

**Section 3: Broader Social Context: How is Humor Shaped by  
Social Relations and Culture?**

Nancy Bell and Martin Lampert

**9 Failed Humor — 165**

Jessica Milner Davis and Anastasiya Fiadotava

**10 Humor and Culture — 181**

Delia Chiaro

**11 Humor and Translation: Cultural Implications — 201**

Raúl Pérez and Giseline Kuipers

**12 Cultural Analysis of Racial and Ethnic Humor — 221**

**Part 2: The Functions of Humor: How Do People Experience,  
Perform and Share Humor?**

**Section 1: Psychological Processes: What Functions Does  
Humor Serve for the Individual?**

Ching-Hui Chen, Hsueh-Chih Chen, and Thomas E. Ford

**13 Effect of Humor on Cognition — 243**

Paavo Kerkkänen and Bruce Findlay

**14 Humor Appreciation Across the Lifespan — 257**

Ilona Papousek

**15 Humor, Health, and Well-Being: Is Humor Really Good for Us? — 271**

**Section 2: Text Properties: What Contextual Factors Affect  
Humor Perception?**

Villy Tsakona and Jan Chovanec

**16 The Sociopragmatics of Humor — 289**

Michael Haugh and Béatrice Priego-Valverde

**17 Conversational Humour — 307**

João Paulo Capelotti

**18 Satire and Parody — 327**

Liisi Laineste and Ksenia Shilikhina

**19 New Forms and Genres of Humor in Social Media — 345**

**Section 3: Broader Social Context: How Does Humor Function  
in Social Relations and Culture?**

John C. Meyer

**20 Humor as a Double-Edged Sword: Uniting and Dividing in Social  
Interaction — 365**

Jeffrey A. Hall and Betty H. La France

**21 The Role of Humor in Initiating Romantic Relationships — 379**

Helga Kotthoff

**22 Gender and Humor: The New State of the Art — 395**

Aleksandar Takovski

**23 Ethnic Humor Across Cultures: Prevalence and Appeal — 413**

Donald A. Saucier, Tiffany J. Lawless, Stuart S. Miller,  
and Svyatoslav ‘Slava’ Prokhorets

**24 Disparagement Humor and Subversion — 431**

Eric Weitz and Dorota Brzozowska

**25 Humor in Media and Popular Culture — 449**

**VIII — Contents**

Jody C. Baumgartner

**26 Political Humor — 467**

Esther Linares-Bernabéu and Leonor Ruiz-Gurillo

**27 Culture and Comedy: Stand-up across Cultures — 479**

Alberto Dionigi

**28 The Art and Efficacy of Clowning — 495**

Eric Shouse and Patrice A. Oppliger

**29 The Dark Side of Stand-Up Comedy — 509**

Moirá Marsh and Gary Alan Fine

**30 Play or Power: The Social Significance of the Practical Joke — 523**

Sharon Lockyer and Simon Weaver

**31 The Ethics of Humor and Comedy — 539**

Bernard Schweizer

**32 Humor in Religious Contexts: An Overview — 557**

Vassilis Saroglou

**33 Humorless or Humor-Friendly Religion? Psychological Theory and Research — 575**

Conal Condren

**Postscript: Humor: Universality, Genealogy, and Concept Formation — 595**

**Contributors — 605**

**Index — 617**