

Editorial

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This issue of the *IJHR: An International Journal* offers four articles and one review. It begins with a joint research on “COVID-19 Editorial Cartoons: Theories of Humor Perspectives” by three authors, two of them based in American Universities and one in Bulgaria. The objective of Zlatinka Blaber, Guergana Gougoumanova and Barry Palatnik is to use classical and novel theories of humor for clarifying disaster humor in editorial cartoons. To that purpose, they have selected cartoons inked by artists from around the world and analyzed them through five classical theories of humor—superiority, inferiority, relief, play, and incongruity theories—and three novel theories of humor—cleverness, benign violation, and mutual vulnerability theories. They found that the classical and new theories helped depict the COVID-19 pandemic as a consequential phenomenon that exerted great power over citizens, governments, and business entities alike. By bridging theoretical frameworks from the fields of philosophy, psychology, and evolutionary biology with issues penned by artists from various countries, this study brings a better understanding of disaster humor as a defense mechanism.

In “Satire and Parody in the Early Evelyn Waugh,” the British literature scholar, John Parkin examines the various humorous modes used by Evelyn Waugh in his early fiction. He finds that they comprise value-based satire and clan-based satire, and by contrast two types of what he terms parody, as distinguished between the naïve, embodied in comical innocents, and the knavish as personified in lovable rogues. He reaches the conclusion that what is significant is the way in which Waugh devises ambiguous comical combinations within his work, so enhancing the freedom of the reader, permitting different responses and meanwhile largely camouflaging his own principles which were based on a religious code fully expounded only in his later work. Parkin argues that the contrast between a subtle and perceptive author and a curmudgeonly and snobbish narrator is one of the many complexities and attractions of Waugh’s fiction.

In “Sensory Processing Sensitivity, Caregiving Strategies, and Well-Being of Medical Clowns,” the Israeli scholar Alon Goldberg cooperates with the Italian psychologist Alberto Dionigi to explore the psychological characteristics of medical clowns. Using a sample of 62

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Israeli medical clowns, the researchers focus on higher sensory processing sensitivity (SPS), and attempt to find out, first, if this characterizes medical clowns, and second, if the SPS is associated with their caregiving strategies and their own well-being. They reach the conclusion that targeting highly sensitive medical clowns before their training, during their training, and throughout their ongoing work can help provide them appropriate support to establish better emotion-regulating strategies and eventually improve their well-being.

In “A Typology of Humor in the Philippine Classrooms,” John Paul G. Luaña and Lizamarie Campoamor-Olegario aim at developing a typology of humor as utilized by Filipino teachers in the public schools. The nominated humorous teachers and their students served as the key informants in this study. Asked to give examples of humor used in the classrooms and to categorize them according to their appropriateness, the responses were thematically analyzed resulting to the identification of appropriate, inappropriate, and context-dependent humor types. On the basis of these findings, the authors offer future directions for humor studies.

A review of Roger Kreuz’s *Irony and Sarcasm* (MIT Press 2020) by philosopher Lydia Amir concludes this issue.

I hope that you will find interest in the diversity of the studies hat this issue proposes.

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