

## Editorial

**Lydia Amir<sup>1</sup>**

The *Israeli Journal of Humor Research: An International Journal* is published from this year on earlier than it used to, the first issue in March and second in September. This time, it holds three articles and two book reviews. While we usually publish four or five articles in each issue, in order not to compromise the quality of the journal, we have accepted only three for this one.

In the first article titled “The Matrices of Black Humor and Death,” Susanne Vosmer, a Clinical Psychologist and Group Analyst practicing in the United Kingdom, analyses the cultural significance and connection to the social unconscious of the matrices of black humor and death. She argues that black humor breaks down the structure of the social unconscious and with it, societal prohibitions and constraints regarding death. She believes that this explains the current fascination with the cult of death, which she associates with the sublime. Enjoyment of and fixation on death/undead are rooted in the ideology of the white aesthetic, she maintains, while black humor keeps the dreadfulness of death away from white. This is a function of the social unconscious, which forms part of all matrices.

In “The Construction of Holocaust Memory by Means of Graphic Humor in Sergio Langer’s book *Judíos*,” Argentinian Linguist Livia Carolina Ravelo explores nine frames from *Judíos (Jews)*, a 2014 book by the Argentinian graphic humorist Sergio Langer. She considers how the image and the word, the two systems that shape the dual language of comics, interact and complement each other to materialize meanings. She uses three categories to classify the frames, namely, Jewish stereotypes, everyday situations in concentration camps, and Holocaust cultural products. She shows how Langer makes of humor a powerful tool to depict the Shoah in an unconventional way, how his work beats any form of Jewish stereotypes and how it contributes to the construction of Holocaust memory.

Finally, the Iceland-based Italian Philosopher, Giorgio Baruchello, uses Carlo Cipolla’s humorous diagram about stupidity in “The Cipolla-Jonas Diagram: Humorous Stupidity, Dutiful Responsibility, and Fifteen Twists of Irony,” to address responsibility along the line of Hans Jonas’s ethics. He argues that the witty piece of methodological and theoretical criticism in the

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social sciences that the noted economic historian Cipolla concocted, when explained, can be combined with Jonas's life-grounded conception of responsibility. Baruchello's purpose is to foster reflection on the issue which will be applicable to concrete social contexts, such as many supposedly beneficial standard economic activities and, *ironically*, the concomitant depletion of Earth's life support systems.

Two book reviews close this issue. The first is written by Olga Karasik, an Associate Professor of Medicine and Associate Program Director of Internal Medicine (in UCF/HCA Healthcare GME) from Florida, who reviews Philosopher Michael K. Cundall Jr.'s *The Humor Hack: Using Humor to Feel Better, Increase Resilience, and (Yes) Enjoy Your Work* (2022). The second is by Lilla Zsófia Cseh, a Linguist from Hungary, who reviews the joint work of Anna T. Litovkina, Hrisztalina Hrisztova-Gotthardt, Péter Barta, Katalin Vargha and Wolfgang Mieder, *Anti-Proverbs in Five Languages* (2022).

I hope, as always, that you will enjoy this issue's articles and reviews.

Lydia Amir  
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