

**AUSTRALASIAN HUMOUR STUDIES NETWORK (AHSN)**  
**GUIDELINES FOR PRESENTERS**

**TOPICS AND SUBJECT MATTER**

Papers at AHSN conferences typically come from a very wide range of disciplines; but papers not also having a firm basis in Humour Studies and/or Comedy Studies are likely to be at a disadvantage in the review process.

**ABSTRACTS**

Abstracts are limited to 500 words including References (if required). Please do not use foot- or end-notes, and retain a dated copy for your own records. Each conference will provide more information, for example on theme and method of e-submission.

**LENGTH OF PRESENTATION**

Papers are allocated 20 minutes for presentation and 10 minutes for discussion. If you are not an experienced presenter, consider writing a full text and reading it aloud slowly and clearly to be sure it will fit into the time allocated. If it is too long, cut it, as question time is important. Questions from AHSN delegates will come from a variety of disciplines and may give you valuable new perspectives on your project.

**TIME LIMIT**

It is unprofessional and highly discourteous to the other speakers to go over-time, and the Chair's principal duty is make sure that you do not do this. Chairpersons typically give five minutes' warning when you have spoken for 15 minutes and another warning at 20 minutes if you have not yet concluded. You must finish during the remaining time. If you have too much material left when you receive the five-minute sign, simply stop at the point you have reached and immediately present your conclusions.

**POWERPOINT**

Well-presented PPTs are appropriate for most presentations as they help the audience focus on key points. It is best not to read quotations written on the screen: the audience can read them faster than you can say them aloud. Once you have established that your PPT is showing on the screen, you should be able to face the audience and refer to the monitor, not to the big screen.

#### CONTENT AND EXAMPLES

Often an abstract proposes to cover too much material for a 20 minute paper. For the paper itself, it is very important to concentrate on one proposition/idea/argument, illustrated by preferably one or two, or at most three examples/case studies. Video or audio examples should be limited to two clips of up to 3 minutes each and it is best to embed them in your presentation.

#### THEORY

Good papers can be ruined by spending too much time on theory at the outset. A conference presentation, unlike a thesis, does not require a long methodological introduction/theoretical contextualization of its case study. It is sufficient to present a short paragraph on theory/research method before moving on to analyze the material you want to discuss. Lengthy quotes from well-known (or obscure) theorists only distract; delegates want to know what *you* think about *your* topic, and you have only twenty minutes (not a lot of time) to do this. If your presentation is aimed at a constructive dialogue with a previous theory of humour/comedy, of course you will need to expound that theory briefly and then proceed as soon as possible to your own ideas on the subject. Again, delegates want to know what *you* think about *your* topic, and you have only twenty minutes to do this. Following these guidelines will help your paper make a good impact and impress your audience.

*Michael Ewans for the AHSN Review Committee, 2015*

*Feedback about these guidelines should be sent to:*

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