

Research Incentive Fund Report

by Moira Marsh, Herman B Wells Library, Indiana University, Bloomington

I attended the 24th International Society for Humor Studies conference at Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland on 25-29 June 2012. In addition to delivering a plenary paper (see details below), I also attended a meeting of the Executive Board, of which I am an elected member. The conference had 222 participants from 35 countries. Since this year's meeting was held in Krakow, the ISHS program was merged with meetings of the 4th Biennial Humor Theories, Applications, Processes (Humor TAP conference in Polish) and two special sessions of LAFAL (Linguistic Approaches to Funniness, Amusement and Laughter, an international forum for scholars interested in linguistic approaches to humor).

I presented my paper, "Foiled Again: The Ethics and Aesthetics of Jokes," in a plenary session on 27 June. Below is the abstract of the paper:

In this paper I will explore the reception of jokes. I will use practical jokes as examples but my intent is to make claims about the reception of verbal jokes as well. I contend that joke reception arises from the interplay of three essential characteristics of jokes, namely their nature as aesthetic objects; their transgressive nature, and their playful essence. Jokes are artistic; jokes are bad if they are any good, and jokes belong to the realm of play. I will illustrate these claims with reference to a contemporary genre of occupational jokelore, the "tin filing" of office desks and cubicles.

A revised and extended version of this paper has been accepted for publication in the journal *Western Folklore*, and the full text of the conference presentation is available in IU ScholarWorks at <http://hdl.handle.net/2022/14593>.

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