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***Discourses of Humour***  
**International Conference**

**The Intercultural Confluences Research Centre of the Department of Humanities, Faculty of Economics, Socio-Human Sciences and Engineering, Miercurea Ciuc, Sapientia Hungarian University of Transylvania, organizes the international English language conference *Discourses of Humour* in the campus of Miercurea Ciuc/Csíkșzereda, Romania, on 24-25 April, 2020. Submission until 31 January, 2020.**

Humour, wit and laughter surround us everywhere. According to the French philosopher Henri Bergson, the fundamental source of comic is the presence of inflexibility and rigidity in life (see *Laughter. An Essay on the Meaning of the Comic*).

As a multi-disciplinary field of research, humour has been studied from various perspectives, in many domains of science such as psychology, philosophy, literature, linguistics, and sociology. Several theories of humour have emerged, including the relief theory, which focuses on physiological release of tension; the incongruity theory, singling out violations of a rationally learned pattern; and the superiority theory, involving a sense of victory or triumph, where humour arises from mischances, infirmities and indecencies. Psychological research has revealed that there are two types of humour: adaptive (facilitative and self-enhancing) vs. maladaptive (self-defeating and aggressive). Humour also involves the concept of game, in the sense that in superiority theory there is always a winner (the joking person) and a loser (the butt of the joke).

Today, we experience humour in many forms: in the offline world, in literature, press, television, but also in the online world. Our conference aims to create a forum to debate reflections, dilemmas, case studies, evaluative surveys and new paths in connection with all these issues. We encourage interdisciplinary approaches to humour, ranging across literary, linguistic and cultural studies.

Suggested topics include but are not limited to:

- Literature and literary genres involving humour
- Humour and narrative
- Cross-cultural humour
- Humour in the media
- Psycho- and sociolinguistic approaches to humour
- Visual humour
- Humour in educational settings
- Humour in performance (theatre, cinema, stand-up comedy, etc.)
- Translation of humour

- Gender and humour
- Stereotyping through humour
- Humour in time
- Humour as a form of resistance
- Humour in folklore
- Humour online

**Keywords:** humour, wit, irony, laughter, joke, games, gamification, parody, satire, comedy.

The conference will embrace parallel sessions. Each paper will be allotted 20 minutes for the presentation, followed by discussions. The programme will also include a virtual panel.

**Keynote speakers:** Delia Chiaro, University of Bologna, Italy (via Zoom or Skype) and Attila László Nemesi, Pázmány Péter Catholic University, Hungary.

#### Submission Guidelines

In order to participate, please fill in the online registration form below. We expect abstracts of maximum 250 words. The abstract submission deadline is **March 1, 2020**.

Notification of acceptance will be sent by **March 8, 2020**.

A selection of the papers will be published in the 2020 issues of the English-language scientific journal *Acta Universitatis Sapientiae, Philologica*, indexed in several international databases:

<http://www.acta.sapientia.ro/acta-philo/philologica-main.htm>

**Early-bird participation fee** – paid by bank transfer between **March 10** and **March 24, 2020**: 40 EUR /200 RON

**Participation fee paid on site:** 50 EUR /250 RON.

**Virtual panel** – paid by bank transfer between **March 10** and **March 24, 2020**: 30 EUR.

**Looking forward to welcoming you in Csíkszereda / Miercurea Ciuc!**