

**Symposium on:  
Cultural Histories of Humour and Laughter**

What is the place of humour and laughter in the study of history and culture?

How can we approach laughter and humour as historical and cultural phenomena – and what was their role in the cultures we are studying? In this symposium, we will discuss the theoretical and methodological dimensions of history of laughter, and analyse the cultural practices in which humour is produced and used in various historical contexts.

We are hoping for a fruitful dialogue between historians and literary scholars analyzing diverse materials, including texts, images and performances.

**FSP Historische Kulturwissenschaften**

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*Symposium on:  
**Cultural  
Histories of  
Humour and  
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June 13-14,  
2012

Raum "Moguntia"  
Hotel Advena Europa  
Kaiserstraße 7  
55116 Mainz



## Programme Wednesday, 13th June 2012

10.00 Session 1

Opening of the symposium, **Anu Korhonen**, University of Mainz

*Chair: Tim Reinke-Williams*

**Indira Ghose**, University of Fribourg: *'Shakespeare and the decorum of laughter'*

**Colin Jones**, Queen Mary, University of London: *'The subversive laughter of Charles-Germain de Saint-Aubin at the court of Louis XV'*

**11.30-12.00 Coffee**

**Olle Ferm**, University of Stockholm: *'Humour as a critical tool'*

**13.00-14.00 Lunch**14.00 Session 2

*Chair: Heidi Hakkarainen*

**Natália Pikli**, ELTE Budapest: *'Unresolved ambiguities of carnival and carnivalesque laughter in Shakespeare's age'*

**Anu Korhonen**, University of Mainz: *'Bloody women and horsehides, or what's so funny about shrew-taming?'*

**15.30-16.00 Coffee**

**Tim Reinke-Williams**, University of Northampton: *'Representations of foreigners in seventeenth-century English jest-books'*

## Programme Thursday, 14th June 2012

9.00 Session 3

*Chair: Natália Pikli*

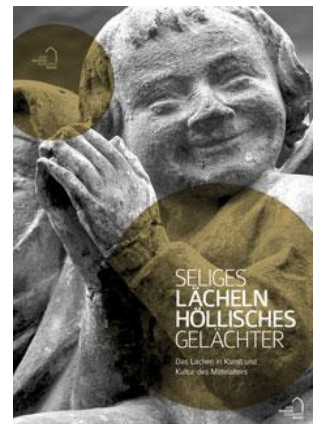
**Jonas Liliequist**, Umeå University: *'How to eat a cat - ridicule and social protest in an early modern Swedish town'*

**Heidi Hakkarainen**, University of Turku: *'Imagining the 19th century city in popular humour: Alternative plans of Vienna in humorous Witzblätter'*

**Coffee 10.30-11.00**

**Johan Verberckmoes**, University of Leuven: *'Laughing at nude buttocks in the early modern period'*

**Ágnes Sávai-Matuska**, University of Szeged: (Title to be announced)

**Closing comments****13.00 Lunch****14.30 Exhibition**

*"Seliges Lächeln – höllisches Gelächter"*  
at the Bischöfliches Dom- und Diözesanmuseum,  
Mainz (<http://www.dommuseum-mainz.de>)