



Humor is serious business

Coffee break conference 2023 — 3th-5th July

Tricks
Irony, Sarcasm and other ~~techniques~~ for mobilising religious, cultural and epistemic capital

Irony has often been analysed as a rhetorical device or a figure of speech within literary and narratological discourses. Yet, irony, as well as sarcasm, mockery, and humour, involves complex social dynamics, creates epistemic communities and might turn a mirth into an act of civil disobedience. Religious emotions have negotiated since time immemorial the relation with the divine through mockery and ritual forms of divine abuse. So, how can we understand laughter as a mode of being in the world? What conception of time is entailed in the syncopated rhythm of a comedic act? What is an uncivil mirth? Is irony a universal mechanism? How much does a joke depend on its medium? What is the aesthetic, emotional agency of humour?

In this conference we aim at addressing the various modalities in which irony, sarcasm, humour have been configured and deployed within the South Asia cultural areas and beyond. We invite papers that investigate how the linguistic, mental, artistic and emotional practices behind irony generate, challenge, syncopate and reconfigure cultural codes.

Venue: Oude Boteringestraat 38, Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies, University of Groningen

Free participation, sign up required:

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