



### **Scrapbook for the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the *European Journal of Humour Research***

Time flies: EJHR is celebrating its 10th anniversary in 2022 and we would like to invite you to celebrate with us! During the past decade, our journal has become an important venue for humour research and has brought together scholars from all around the world and from a significant number of research areas. So, we invite you to send us your EJHR-related contributions [which] could take the form of memories, thoughts, wishes, stories, jokes, memes, photos, etc., and are expected to be related to your experiences with EJHR as authors, guest-editors, reviewers, editorial assistants, and readers. Your texts will be included in the digital scrapbook which will be published as part of the final issue of 2022.

This is how we described our idea for celebrating our 10-year interdisciplinary journey across and within humour studies. When launching the call for the scrapbook, we could hardly imagine that we would gather such precious and touching contributions from colleagues and friends who took some time out of their busy lives to write a few kind, creative, and/or funny (poetic or prose) words, to send photos bringing back lovely memories, to create dances, memes, etc. More specifically, we received texts from the following contributors (in alphabetical order): João Pedro Rosa Ferreira, Anastasiya Fiadotava, Paavo Kerkkänen, Aziz Kholmatov, Liisi Laineste, Gabriella Maestrini, Vicky Manteli, Vittorio Marone, Marit Piirman, and Ghaleb Rabab'ah. We are most grateful to all of them. And, of course, we are most grateful to all of you who

are reading these lines and have been collaborating with us for so long and have joined us for this exciting journey.

Even though the original idea launched by Diana Popa and embraced by us involved a Europe-oriented journal, we soon realised that a literal and narrow interpretation of the word *European* would hardly benefit any of the involved parties. So, we have received and published numerous papers, book reviews, and other kinds of contributions from all over the world – and we are extremely happy and proud of making new friends from each and every continent of the planet (perhaps not Antarctica, but no one can tell what the future holds...; this could be our goal for the next decade). This geographical and cultural diversity is reflected in this issue as well as in this very scrapbook. It therefore seems that the only *European* thing about this journal is the origin of its (founding and current) editors.

Once again, we express our gratitude to all of you who have supported our endeavour and we wish we can all together celebrate the next 10 (or more) years!

Dorota Brzozowska, Władysław Chłopicki, and Villy Tsakona



The history of the journal is the history of friendship, work and support.

It all started with the group of people who met at the ISHS conferences and wanted to have a good reason to spend more time together. Diana, the Founding Mother, had the idea and asked those close to her for support – Villy, the Greek, and two Poles, Dorota and Wlodek, always eager to talk, make fun, brainstorm and laugh together.

The great time spent together made the bond even stronger – like when “girls” shot off in Copenhagen after the gala dinner in the townhall, when “boys” were watching some boring football match and cheering competing teams; or when, invited by Diana, the editorial team met in the beautiful surroundings of Bran –the Vampire castle– and enjoyed Romania (to name only the two out of many nice places where we have met).

There was also hard work for the journal – e.g., pasting e-mails or writing them from scratch each time before the OJS system was introduced was an extremely boring and time-consuming activity...

There was also the support of many editorial assistants – we needed them more and more with the journal developing rapidly and the papers starting to pile up; some of those people completed their PhDs and went away, some completed them and have stayed (thank you -Anna), some worked for one issue only, others were engaged till being exhausted.

We had the support of reviewers, many of whom we could count on when others refused or did not respond –thank you, guys– you know who you are!

There were the weaker moments when I wanted to give up – especially after hearing a threat from the author of a rejected paper which was corrected several times

without becoming much better. He promised “never forgive nor forget” – then I wished we hadn’t rejected the paper straight away, but naively thought that the paper had chances to be corrected and resent it to the patient reviewers multiple times...

At the moments of despair only the loyalty to friends and their support make the work worth doing...

It gives us a moment of pride and joy to think that the journal has developed from a European one to a global one, existing and presenting research due to the collaboration with people from so many countries and all inhabited continents....

The diligence, persistence and hardworking ethos of Villy, Wlodek, and all those who helped us during those ten years make me want to say: Thank you, guys, for the journal but most of all thank you for your friendship...

Dorota Brzozowska  
Opole University, Poland

There was a Romanian, a Greek, and two Poles who went to a bar in Krakow one summer afternoon in 2012, during the memorable ISHS conference. 'Why don't we start a new journal on humour?', said the Romanian courageously. 'There is Humour out there, not just *Humor*!' 'Maybe, but we have no idea about running journals', exclaimed the others. 'Don't worry, if there is a will, there is a way. I will get us an ISSN number, launch an open journal system website for us, and I will invite the first issue contributions. Can you just contribute to the Editorial?'

And this is how it started. A challenge, a call for action, a chance to learn new skills and influence the field of humour studies to supplement the revered *Humor* journal. We decided to meet the challenge and this has been a never-ending adventure.

We have been moving from challenge to crisis, and thus became wiser and wiser (within limits of course). How do we make articles look the same? Why doesn't the article format correctly? Why does the website get stalled? Why don't the emails reach anyone? Where is the cover for the new issue? Where do research assistants come from? Why did this one quit again? Why are there so many errors in this bibliography? Who makes the list of contents? There are mistakes there! How did we forget about this article – it has been sitting here for a year! What do we do with this reviewer – we have been waiting for his review for 18 months now! And where does money come from? We actually need to pay for the website and server. Why did this author complain? Do we desk-reject articles at all? Scopus? What's that? Why doesn't Web of Science include us finally?

There is no end to challenges but so much positive stimulation. We will never be bored! Especially in this excellent company of editors and journal friends. So, we are persevering in the hope to live up to the 50-year horizon that the Scopus signed the contract with us for. Just 44 years more, friends! We will manage!!!

Władysław Chłopicki  
Jagiellonian University, Poland

### **Who's afraid of humour?**

"Death has no sense of humour. It does not want to be laughed at", said Terry Gilliam to the Portuguese humourist Ricardo Araújo Pereira a few months ago. Gilliam, the author of the nonsensical animation sequences of Monty Python, was in Portugal promoting his latest picture, *The Man Who Killed Don Quixote*, which was partly shot at the Knights Templar Castle, in Tomar. By coincidence, Umberto Eco also chose that castle as one of the locations of *Foucault's Pendulum*, a monument to humour and a powerful vaccine against obscurantism, fake news and conspiracy theories.

Terry Gilliam, Monty Python, Ricardo Araújo Pereira, Don Quixote, Cervantes, Umberto Eco, the editors and contributors of the EJHR are all on the right side of history: the side of life against death, the side of laughter against all the agelasts. Back to Eco, who made *The Name of the Rose* spin around a fictitious –but very much likely– Second Book of Aristotle's *Poetics*, where the philosopher would have developed the reflections that we can only presume from the book that survived. The existence of that second book, which would have confirmed the importance attributed by Aristotle to laughter, starts a conspiracy to hide the book led by the librarian himself, who is like a fox in the henhouse, unable to laugh and willing to commit murder in order to impose the false dogma according to which God does not laugh. While we are at Aristotle, allow me to remember a true episode of involuntary humour: during the dictatorship in Portugal that lasted for almost 50 years until 1974, a book written by Aristotle more than 2000 years ago once happened to be apprehended by the police. The trouble with it was its subversive title: *Politics*. By making one laugh, humour sows doubt, the yeast of a critical mind, the food of free thinking.

Who's afraid of humour? Yesterday's and today's Savonarolas. All those that chased, censored, and burned Erasmus's *Praise of Folly*, Rabelais's *Pantagruel*, Molière's *Tartuffe*. The little, medium and big bureaucrats laughed at by the cartoons of *Krokodil* and jokes about the *diamat* and "scientific socialism" classes. In order to be efficient, laughter needs wit, is challenging, stimulates cleverness, not stupidity. Laughter has no political agenda. It is neither a liberator nor an oppressor, it is amoral. But it requires style, quality, high standards. Liberticide laughter is often vulgar, it flounders in the gutter of sarcasm. Rebel laughter appeals to intelligent thinking, it resorts mainly to irony and is relentless in the way it tackles the baseness of prejudice applying ridicule with surgical accuracy.

Anyway, the question 'who's afraid of humour' has not a simple answer. All of us, sometimes, are afraid of humour. Then, the best we can do is to follow the example of those who, from Menippean satire to wit to *mot d'esprit* to incongruence to irony, have long ago discovered the benefits of self-deprecating humour.

In order to lose the fear of humour, we had better start laughing at ourselves.

João Pedro Rosa Ferreira

CHAM, NOVA FCSH, Universidade Nova de Lisboa, Portugal

Cara Acta Europae Inquisitionis Humoris!

Superbus et gaudeo sum, ut natalis gratulationem submittere possum! Opto ut annos beati libellorum et multum novus articulos et praeclaros auctores!

Have you got through the previous lines effortlessly? Or did they leave you slightly confused and puzzled? Probably not – if you are reading this digital scrapbook, you have most likely published (or tried to publish) at least one article in the *European Journal of Humour Research*. And in order to do so, you had to download and use its template – and here is where the fun began.

Before you have pasted your own brilliant text into the template, you must have noticed that some text is already there. Besides generic and boring recommendations not to use too many footnotes, there are also some sentences in Latin. As an inquisitive scholar, you have ~~deleted them right away and forgotten all about them~~ immediately taken a Latin-English dictionary from your bookshelf and started translating these messages that the journal editors must have left there just for us.

You are probably not surprised to find out that the very first sentence speaks about pain (*that resonates with your thoughts when you realise that you have to adapt your text to the template*), and you quickly recognise it from “de finibus bonorum et malorum” by Cicero. However, as you read on, you become somewhat frustrated as you see that the language is corrupted, and it is far from the beautiful Latin of Cicero and his compatriots. You become even more upset when, after a brief googling, you find out that this is a very common placeholder text that has been used at least for half a century by different publishers throughout the world. However, you are still curious to translate all of it, and here are the most important things you find out:

- “occasionally circumstances occur in which toil and pain can procure... some great pleasure” – *you immediately imagine how you’d feel after you have put the final dot in this document and sent it off to the editors;*
- “which of us ever undertakes laborious physical exercise, except to obtain some advantage from it” – *you feel the temptation to abandon the editing in favour of some sports activity, but look at the calendar and convince yourself that typing the journal’s long URL has been enough of a physical exercise for you today;*
- “blame belongs to those who fail in their duty through weakness of will” – *you sigh, strengthen your will with a piece bar of chocolate and continue filling in the template, hoping to submit it by the deadline which is, of course, today.*

Happy Birthday, dear editors, authors, and readers of the *European Journal of Humour Research*!

Anastasiya Fiadotava  
Estonian Literary Museum, Estonia  
Jagiellonian University, Poland



EJHR is celebrating its 10th anniversary in 2022 and here comes a couple of photos for that purpose to the scrapbook.

These two photos were taken in Tallinn during the ISHS meeting in June 2018, when EJHR reviewers had their first meeting together. Have there been any other common meetings after Tallinn and after corona time? Perhaps not - but look at the happy faces in Tallinn. Keep on having happy faces and laughing also in the future!

Cheers,

Paavo Kerkkänen

University of Eastern Finland, Finland





Dear editors,

Using this opportunity, I would like to thank you all!

Though I do not have a special story regarding the *European Journal of Humour Research*, I need to say that all the people whom I contacted via email and who contacted me were extremely polite and positive. I received very detailed and constructive feedback which helped me to improve my article and resubmit it successfully. As a result, it was published.

I should note that the *European Journal of Humour Research* very much supports PhD students, those who have started their research recently and are just entering the big world of academia.

Most significantly, the *European Journal of Humour Research* is an essentially open-source resource from which researchers can get significant resources for their own research purposes.

Therefore, I wish this journal a long life so that the journal can continue its high impact on the development of the research area.

Sincerely,

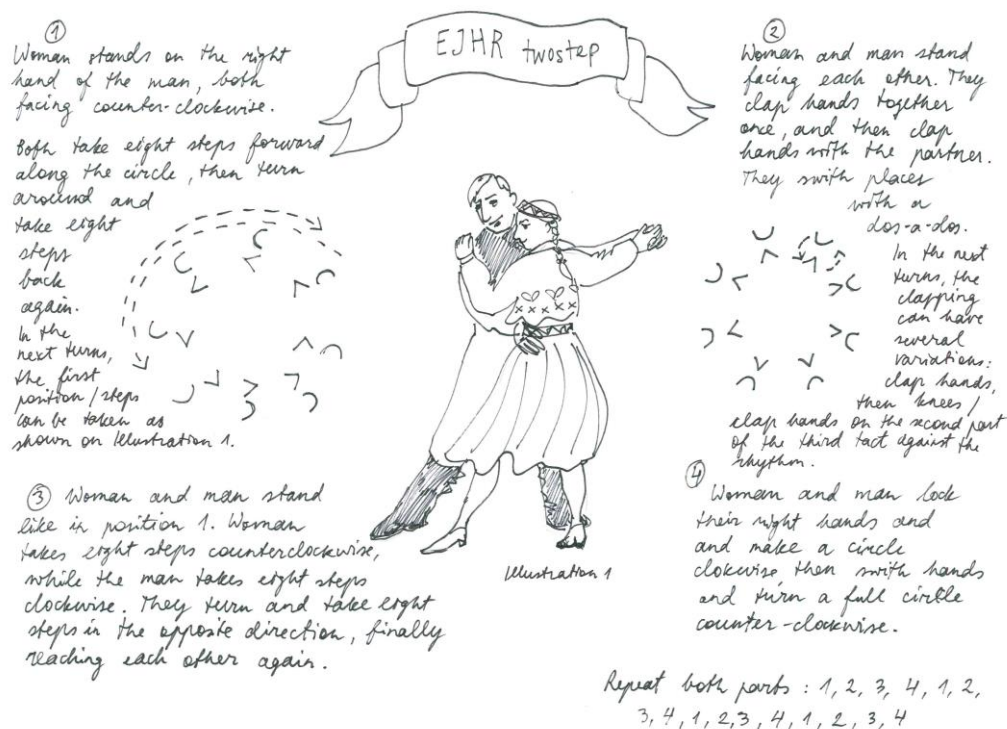
Aziz Kholmatov

Uzbekistan State University of World Languages & Westminster International University in Tashkent, Uzbekistan

EJHR might be a young journal in human years, but considering that 10 years in a journal's life equals approximately 20 years in human life, we can say that the journal has reached the ripe age where it's no more a teenager, but a young adult who knows perfectly well what it needs and wants. I am somehow convinced that, as a young adult, it wants to sing, dance and generally enjoy life. I remember when the journal was still just a plan in Diana Popa's head, but already then the idea was accompanied with song and dance in Romania, Spain, and elsewhere where we met. As years went past, the song and dance connection remained strong and perhaps even grew stronger: every time I met the wonderful and capable set of EJHR editors, we either sang, danced, did both, or talked about either. Even though one of them has methodically tried to avoid being seen in public while dancing (not mentioning any names here to give her a chance to change her mind), I have had the pleasure to see all of them in action and danced happily along with them. The same applies to our cooperation at the journal: they have suggested some steps and I have danced along, for example, lending my hand with indexing the worthy journal in Scopus, and lately also in WoS.

I am happy to see the journal thriving ten years later, and more than happy to contribute something for celebrating the occasion. The truth is that I have always dreamt of creating a dance, and this is why the 10th anniversary – the heyday of a dance-loving journal – seemed like the most suitable occasion for fulfilling my dream. I hope that we will have much fun dancing this dance, now officially called "The EJHR twostep". The tune carries a southern, more temperamental flavour than usual for Estonian dances, as it originates from the Southern part of Estonia from the small ethnic group called the Setu. For this dance, the traditional song is played by a young musician, Matis Leima, on the karmoška – in Russian гармонь – a variety of a folk accordion:

<https://www.facebook.com/matisleimamusic/videos/570429883821466/>.



Liisi Laineste  
Estonian Literary Museum, Estonia

The following two poems are inspired by performances by the stand-up comedian Trevor Noah and my continued engagement with the *European Journal for Humour Research*:

### **MEMORIES**

Memories can be heavy or light.

Cloak heavy memories in humour.

To make them lighter  
let them take off in laughter  
as ethereal beings.

So that the laughter  
may carry away  
the heaviness  
inscribed  
onto a body  
rendered different

Memories know  
Memories teach  
Memories connect  
Memories erase  
Memories tear apart.

Cacophonous ways to remember  
to evoke our pasts  
to keep truths alive

*As performed cultural memory.*  
(MAGA, 2020)

### **On border-crossers and in-betweeners**

When I see Y(i)OU(r) body perform on stage,  
the immigrant body, the in-between body,  
I see my own, listen to my own, experience my own,  
feel my own crossing borders,  
living in in-between worlds  
real and imagined across time, space, and geographies.

Shaking my body in laughter, slow tears moving down the cheeks  
one laughing, one crying as I gaze,  
not to an 'other', but to an alliance of entanglements, those lived and perceived  
moments of otherness...

While making sense of it all,  
what it means to live in a world that doesn't accept,  
that doesn't feel, that doesn't want - to include,

be just, be me, be other, be... one, no one, two one. Here.

My no/body, my other/body, my shared/body, nos/otr@s/ymb.  
(MAGA, 2017)

MAGA (Gabriella Maestrini) is the acronym I use to sign my academic, poetic and photographic art.

Gabriella Maestrini  
University of British Columbia, Canada

**Scenes from 'old times' and a couple of vishes two...**



[Tsa, Do, and Chłó in Alicante, October 2019. Founding editor of the EJHR, Di, was reached by a phone call over the Atlantic a few minutes after the snapshot was taken.]



[Chłó, Do, and Tsa - Alicante, October 2019]



[Tsa and Li - Alicante, October 2019]

I vish mi frends of the Editorial Team of EJHR lots of health, kreativiti, joi, and a life fool of laff. I vant to sai how match I miss them and vant as all to meat again soon. For this little peace of inspiration (!) I oh debt to:

Billings, Josh. 1907. "Laffing". In Wilder M. P. (ed.), *The Wit and Humor of America* vol. I. New York & London: Funk & Wagnalls Company, 208-210.

Vicky Manteli,  
University of Patras, Greece



Dear Editor and Editorial Team of EJHR,

Happy 10th Anniversary of this extraordinary journal!

Please find attached a meme that reflects one of my experiences with publishing humour research in EJHR. It refers to my article “Looping out loud: A multimodal analysis of humour on Vine” (4/2016) in which I discussed humour uses on the “rising” social media app Vine. The app was discontinued shortly after the publication of the article. The silver lining is that the findings of the study also apply to other short-form social media like TikTok, but the meme reflects how I felt at the time.

Thank you for your attention and congratulations on this achievement!

I look forward to the next 10 years of humour research – and the next rising social media apps! ☺

Kind regards,

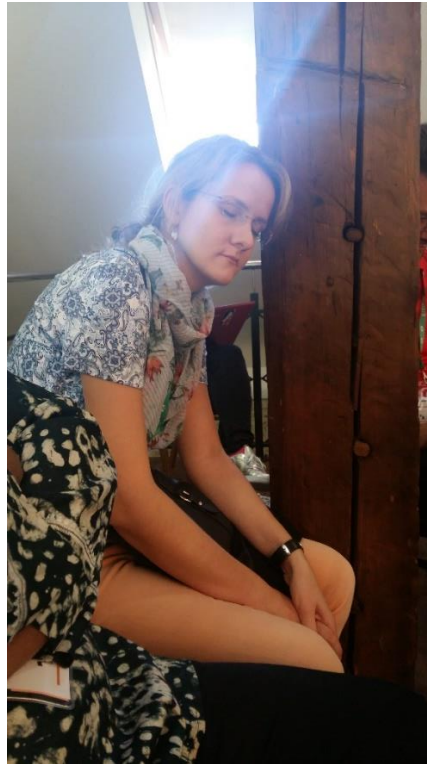
Vittorio Marone

The University of Texas at San Antonio, USA



Hello!

Here a few photos from the 2018 humour conference in Tallinn, Estonia.



“Let the show begin” Lilabubulina Petrowitschina (on the left) / “Researching humour can be exhausting” Anja Pabel (on the right)



“Serious conference delegates” Anja Pabel, Marit Piirman, Maja Turnšek

All the best,  
Marit Piirman  
University of Tartu Pärnu College, Estonia

Dear Respected Editor,  
Congratulations on your 10th anniversary!

In a short period of time, *The European Journal of Humour Research* has gained a prestigious status amongst top-tier journals. It has gained its status for the following reasons. First, it is led by a prominent research figure in humour research, Editor Prof. Władysław Chłopicki. Second, it is an open-access journal, which helps researchers get any paper without charges. Finally, it is a specialised journal, which has published many papers on humour research. This has opened new doors for specialised research to be published in a specialised journal.

I wish *The European Journal of Humour Research* every success!

Ghaleb Rabab'ah  
University of Sharjah, United Arab Emirates

**A photo from “when it all began” and some lyrics...**



[Romania, November 2012]

What would you think if I sang out of tune  
Would you stand up and walk out on me  
Lend me your ears and I'll sing you a song  
And I'll try not to sing out of key

Oh, I'll get by with a little help from my friends  
Oh, I'll get high with a little help from my friends  
Oh, I'll get by with a little help from my friends, my friends  
(Lyrics: John Lennon & Paul McCartney)

Friends will be friends  
When you're in need of love they give you care and attention  
Friends will be friends  
When you're through with life and all hope is lost  
Hold out your hand  
'Cause friends will be friends  
Right 'til the end  
(Lyrics: Freddie Mercury)

Villy Tsakona  
National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece