



INTERNATIONAL
CENTRE FOR
ETHNIC STUDIES

INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR ETHNIC STUDIES, SRI LANKA

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY, SOUTH ASIAN UNIVERSITY, NEW DELHI

Humour and the Performance of Power in South Asia:

Anxiety, Laughter and Politics in Unstable Times

27th & 28th June 2019, at the ICES

27th June, Thursday

Panel 1:

10.00 – 10.30 am

Moderator: *Mario Gomez (Executive Director, International Centre for Ethnic Studies, ICES)*

Sasanka Perera (Convener, South Asian University, New Delhi)	<i>Preliminary Comments</i>
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Panel 2:

10.30 – 11.30 am

Towards Possibilities in Theorizing Humor

Moderator: Sasanka Perera (Conference Convener, South Asian University New Delhi)

Bindu, K.C (School of Human Studies, Ambedkar University Delhi)	<i>Threatened Laughter? Modernity and Humor in the Nambudiri Jokes from Malabar, South India</i>	10.30- 10.45am
Dev Nath Pathak (Department of Sociology, South Asian University, New Delhi)	<i>Cultural Politics of Humor in South Asia: Exploring Anthropological Framework for Performative Communication</i>	10.45-11.00am
Anasuya Agarwala (Department of Philosophy, Gargi College, University of Delhi) and Anish Chakravarty (Kamala Nehru College, University of Delhi)	<i>The Ambivalence of Laughter and its Aftermath: An Existentialist Perspective</i>	11.00- 11.15am

Discussion 11.15 – 11.30 am

Tea – 11.30 am – 12.00 pm

Panel 3:

12.00 – 1.00 pm

Humor and Political Participation

Moderator: Dev Nath Pathak

Andi Schubert (Department of Language Studies, Open University of Sri Lanka)	<i>“Sahabgithwayai Wadagath”: A study on discourses of civic participation through Facebook memes circulated during the 2018 Constitutional Crisis in Sri Lanka</i>	12.00- 12.15 pm
Avinash Ediga (Department of Sociology, South Asian University)	<i>Performative Politics: Dramatic Democracy in India Today</i>	12.15- 12.30 pm
Zunayed Ahmed Ehsan (Department of Sociology, South Asian University)	<i>Ridiculing Power, Destabilizing Politics: Front-stage Performance of Youth in Contemporary Bangladesh</i>	12.30-12.45pm

Discussion 12.45 – 1.00pm

Panel 4:

1.00 – 02.00 pm

Humor, Visuality and Politics of Caste and Resurrected Myths

Moderator: Bindu, K.C

Shreyashi Ganguly (Journalist)	<i>Laughing about Caste: An analysis of How Caste Finds Representation in the Genre of Stand-up Comedy in India</i>	1.00 -1.15pm
Anton Piyarathne (Department of Social Studies, The Open University of Sri Lanka)	<i>Grease Yaka: Cartoon Narratives of Citizens’ Anxieties in the Era of Political Uncertainties</i>	1.15-1.30 pm
Sarika Warusavitarana (Faculty of Graduate Studies, University of Colombo)	<i>Who’s the Man? An analysis of Gendered Representations of Political Leadership in Cartoons Illustrated by Awantha Artigala and Gihan de Chickera</i>	1.30-1.45 pm

Discussion: 1.45 – 2.00 pm

Lunch: 2.00 – 3.00 pm

Panel 5:
3.00 – 4.00 pm

Resistance and Forms of Performing Humor

Moderator: Dev Nath Pathak

Monika Yadav (Department of Sociology, Indian Institute of Technology Bombay)	<i>'Dance-Drama' Performances in Northern India: Humor, Subversions and the Politics of Contemporary Gender(ed) Relations</i>	3.00-3.15 pm
Rashi Bhargava (Department of Sociology, Maitreyi College, University of Delhi) and Samarth Singhal (Department of English, Kamla Nehru College, University of Delhi.)	<i>Standing Up: The "Comic" Public Sphere</i>	3.15 – 3.30 pm
Magna Mohapatra (Department of Sociology, South Asian University)	<i>Stand Up Comedy and Performative Politics: An Alternative Discourse of Power in Contemporary India</i>	3.30 -3.45 pm

Discussion: 3.45 – 4.00 pm

Panel 6:
4.00 pm – 5.00 pm

<p style="text-align: center;">Book Launch and Discussion</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Sociology and Social Anthropology in South Asia: Histories and Practices</i> (Eds., Dev Nath Pathak, Ravi Kumar & Sasanka Perera, Orient BlackSwan, New Delhi, 2018)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Moderator: Mario Gomez</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Panelists: Rashi Bhargava, Maitreyi College, University of Delhi Malathi de Alwis, Visiting Faculty, University of Colombo Dev Nath Pathak, South Asian University</p>

Tea: 5.00 pm – 5.45 pm

28th June, Friday

Panel 7:

10.00 am – 11.00 am

Politics, Humor, Language and Censorship

Moderator: Bindu, K, C

Annemari de Silva (International Centre for Ethnic Studies, Colombo)	<i>The Funny Thing about Pop Culture Censorship in Sri Lanka</i>	10.00-10.15 am
Vivimarie Vanderpoorten Medawattegedera (Department of Language Studies, Open University of Sri Lanka)	<i>“Do nat blak da gat”: English, Humour and Anxiety in the Translanguaging Era</i>	10.15- 10.30 am
Lal Medawattegedara (Open University of Sri Lanka)	<i>Ado, Umbath Lankaven-dhe?”: The Politics of Humoring ‘Sri Lanka’ and ‘Sri Lankan’ in a Collection of Modern Folktales</i>	1.30-10.45am

Discussion: 10.45 -11.00 am

Panel 8:

11.00 am – 11.45 pm

Humor and Politics in Everyday Life Worlds and Media

Moderator: Rashi Bhargava

Prithiraj Borah (Department of History and Social Sciences, IIT Bombay)	<i>Tales from Assam's tea gardens: Humour/Resistance in Everyday Life-world of a Labourer</i>	11.00-11.15 am
Ratan Kumar Roy (Jamia Milia Islamia, New Delhi)	<i>Media, Politics and Humorous Public in Bangladesh</i>	11.15- 11.30 am

Discussion: 11.30 am – 11.45 pm

Panel 9

12.00 – 12.30 pm:

Beyond the Conference and Future Planning

Conclusion and Lunch