

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Dr Jessica Milner Davis, BA Ph.D (UNSW)

Dr Jessica Milner Davis is an independent scholar and education consultant. She was a Visiting Scholar at both Bristol and Stanford Universities in the 70s before returning to the University of NSW in Sydney where she served as Deputy Chancellor from 1981-1990 and Pro-Chancellor 1996-2006. She is currently an Honorary Associate in the Faculty of Arts at University of Sydney.

She was an early member of the USA-based International Society for Humor Studies (ISHS), twice serving as President (1996 and 2001). Her research interests focus on comic genre (especially farce), theory and history of comedy, and cross-cultural studies of humour and its uses.

Because studying humour involves a multi-discipline approach, Dr Milner Davis has a special interest in appropriate research paradigms. She is Convenor of an Australian group of humour scholars (the Australasian Humour Scholars Network – present website <http://media.arts.unsw.edu.au/ahsn/>) and has taught and examined a wide range of academic subjects including literary, stage and film comedy, violence and comedy, women’s humour, popular TV and stand-up comedy, humour in business and comparative studies of joking in eg Indonesia and Australia.

Her recent publications include *Farce* (a revised, expanded edition, Transaction Publishing: 2003) and *Understanding Humor in Japan* (Wayne State University Press: 2006) and (with Troy Simpson) the entry on “Humour” in the *Oxford Companion to the High Court of Australia* (OUP: 2001). She is Associate Book Review Editor and member of the Consulting Editorial Board for *Humor: The International Journal for Humor Research* (Mouton de Gruyter, Berlin), and a member of the Editorial Board for *Studies in Humor and Gender* (Gordon and Breach, NY).

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