



**THE
ROYAL SOCIETY
OF NEW SOUTH WALES**

ENRICHING LIVES THROUGH KNOWLEDGE SINCE 1821

1297TH ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 1 SEPTEMBER 2021 AT 6.30PM

By ZOOM Webinar

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88162425811>

AGENDA

- 1. WELCOME** – President, Dr Susan Pond AM FRSN
- 1.1 Acknowledgement of Country**
- 1.2 Diversity and Inclusion statement**
- 1.3 Minutes of the 1296th Ordinary General Meeting held on 4 August 2021**

2. CONFIRMATION OF MEMBERSHIP

As no valid objection was lodged within two weeks following the 1296th Ordinary General Meeting, the election of the following new Members took effect from the date of that meeting held on 4 August 2021.

2.1 Members

Ms Catherine Carter
Dr Rhea Friederike Cornley
Associate Professor Wei Deng
Mr Trent Pohlmann
Mr James Tanna
Ms. Melinda Tursky

3 ANNOUNCEMENT OF NAMES OF CANDIDATES FOR FELLOWSHIP AND MEMBERSHIP

3.1 Fellows

The Fellows and Members Assessment Committee met on 10 August 2021. If no valid objection is lodged within two weeks of this Ordinary General Meeting, that is, by 6.30pm on 15 September 2021, the election of the following new Fellows will take effect from the date of this meeting.

Professor David John Adams
Professor Philip Stewart Bolton
Ms Carolyn Jan Bowen
Professor Min Chen
Dr Simon John Devitt
Dr Jai Christian Galliot
Emeritus Professor Anthony John Hulbert
Professor Christopher Bond Little
Professor Nathan Lo
Dr Colin Pardoe
Professor Jennifer Robyn Potts
Professor Lisa Rae Jackson Pulver
Professor Leigh Albert Sullivan
Associate Professor Rebecca Suter
Professor Xiaoke Yi
Professor Ken-Tye Yong

3.2 Members

If no valid objection is lodged within two weeks of this Ordinary General Meeting, that is, by 6.30pm on 15 September 2021, the election of the following new Members will take effect from the date of this meeting.

Ms Kate Carruthers

4 REPORT FROM COUNCIL AND COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL

The President will provide a verbal report on matters emanating from the July Council meeting.

5 QUESTIONS

Questions can be sent to the President in advance, to president@royalsoc.org.au

6 THIS EVENING'S PRESENTATION

TAKING HUMOUR AND LAUGHTER SERIOUSLY: EXPLORING THE MULTI-DISCIPLINARY FIELD OF HUMOUR STUDIES

Dr Jessica Milner Davis FRSN
Honorary Associate, University of Sydney

Jessica Milner Davis is a research associate at the University of Sydney and at Brunel University London's Centre for Comedy Studies Research. A life member of Clare Hall, Cambridge, she has held fellowships and lectured at the Universities of Cambridge, Bologna, Bristol, and NSW, as well as Stanford, Hofstra, and the Jagellonian University. A past president of the International Society for Humor Studies (ISHS), she founded and continues to co-ordinate the Australasian Humour Studies Network (AHSN: <https://ahsnhumourstudies.org/>). In 2018 she received the ISHS Lifetime Achievement Award for her interdisciplinary research and publications on humour, comedy, and laughter.

From the time of Aristotle and Plato, philosophers have speculated about humour and laughter, proposing that *ridere est humanum*. But we now know that chimpanzees and rats also laugh. Sociologist Norbert Elias believed that laughter evolved as an antidote to aggression; but humour can also be damaging. This lecture explores the question of whether humour unites or divides the human race. Studies in neuroscience, psychology, linguistics, literature, performance, history, sociology, religion, health, and the emotions all now contribute to our understanding of the functions and consequences of humour. We honour its creators and practitioners, but we still can't define it.

7 VOTE OF THANKS

8 **CLOSE** – President, Dr Susan Pond AM FRSN