



Notre Dame Institute for
ADVANCED STUDY

The Impact of Laughter and Humor in History and Today's Digitized World

“Politics and Intersectionality in Laughter and Humor”

Friday, April 8, 2016 – Mid-Morning Session (11:00 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.)

Moderator



Donald L. Stelluto is Associate Director of the Notre Dame Institute for Advanced Study. He received his Ph.D. in U.S. constitutional history from the University of Maryland, College Park and he specializes in U.S. constitutional history and the nineteenth century, with a focus on the American Civil War era. Dr. Stelluto is the author of several articles on western legal history, the American South, and the Civil War era, and co-editor, with Vittorio Hösle, of *The Idea of a Catholic Institute for Advanced Study*. His current project, “*A light that reveals its true meaning*,” is a book-length examination of legal and constitutional developments in the mid-19th century South. He is the project leader and a member of a team awarded a \$1.58 million research award in 2012 from the John Templeton Foundation.

Presenters

Jody C. Baumgartner is Professor of Political Science at East Carolina University. His research is focused on the office of the U.S. Vice-President, political humor and the media, political elections, humor and popular culture, and presidential politics. He is the author of *The American Vice Presidency Reconsidered* (2006) and *The Vice Presidency: From the Shadow to the Spotlight* (2015), co-author of *Conventional Wisdom and American Elections: Exploding Myths, Exploring Misconceptions* (with Peter L. Francia, 2010), *Politics Is a Joke!: How TV Comedians Are Remaking Political Life* (with S. Robert Lichter and Jonathan Morris, 2014), and co-editor of *Laughing Matters: Humor and American Politics in the Media Age* (with Jonathan S. Morris, 2007). His current research focuses on presidential elections and includes a forthcoming article “Does the ‘Road to the White House Run Through’ Letterman? Chris Christie, Letterman, and Attack v. Self-Deprecating Humor.”





Raúl Pérez is an assistant professor in the Department of Sociology and Criminology at the University of Denver. His research and teaching interests span several areas, including race, ethnicity and racisms, social inequality, law and society, culture, theory, and humor and comedy studies. His research examines how racial discourse shifted in the U.S. from the pre-civil rights era to the present, with an eye on how racist humor evolved in the world of comedy as a result of the civil rights movement. His current work focuses on the circulation of racist humor across social and institutional contexts in the “color-blind” era, including online environments, the criminal justice system, politics, and higher education. His work has appeared in various academic journals

including *Discourse & Society*, *Ethnicities*, and *Social Semiotics*, as well as *Time* magazine, *The Grio*, *Latino Rebels* and *Racism Review*. In 2015 he received the Oliver C. Cox Article Award from the American Sociological Association.

Simon Weaver is Lecturer in Media and Communications and a member of the Centre for Comedy Studies Research at Brunel University London. His research focuses on overlapping areas in sociology, communications and media studies and includes social and cultural theory, the work of Zygmunt Bauman, semiotics, representations of disability and ‘deformity’ in media, rhetoric in discourses of health, racist and offensive humor, humor and rhetoric, and the sociology of race, ethnicity, and racism. He is the author of *The Rhetoric of Racist Humour: US, UK and Global Race Joking* (2011) and more than 30 book chapters and articles in journals that include *Current Sociology*, *Sociology*, *Social Semiotics*, *Humor: International Journal of Humor Research*, *International Journal of Cultural Studies*, and *Ethnic and Racial Studies*.

