

OUR AUTHORS

Christie Davies – his main research has been into the comparative and historical study of jokes and humour. He is the author of the books *Ethnic Humor around the World* 1990, *Jokes and their Relation to Society* 1998, *The Mirth of Nations* 2002 and *Jokes and Targets* 2011, and of a large number of journal articles and book chapters on humour. He has been a visiting scholar in India and the United States and has given lectures and papers on humour in many European countries.

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Seppo Knuuttila is Professor of Folklore studies at the University of Eastern Finland. His current research interests include cultural theory, cultural localities and spatial peripheries as cultural and social constructions, and contemporary folk/outsider art. He has also studied folk humour, mythic history, Finnish mentality and identity. He is the Head of the Kalevala Society (since 2007).

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Stanoy Stanoev is Associated Professor at the Institute of Ethnology and Folklore Studies with the National Ethnographic Museum, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. His main fields of research are jokes and joke telling, contemporary folklore, modern culture.

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Piret Voolaid is researcher at the group of minor forms of folklore at the Department of Folkloristics, Estonian Literary Museum. Her current interests include Estonian riddles, and sports lore. She has compiled several databases of the subgenres of riddles (droodles, conundrums, compound puns, abbreviation riddles etc.).

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Outi Lauhakangas is a social psychologist who has long experience in paremiological research. Her contributions on paremiology are numerous and include the publication of the Matti Kuusi international type system of proverbs. She studied the functions of proverbs in social interaction. Her latest aim of research is to map out usage of proverbs on the Finnish Internet forums to find out their present functions. She is one of the editorial consultants of the journal *Proverbium*. Lauhakangas also works as the chief-editor of a Finnish cultural magazine *Hiidenkivi*.

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Liisa Granbom-Herranen is a researcher at University of Jyväskylä, Finland. Her research interests include proverbs in context in past and present, metaphor theories connected with proverbs, interpretations and aims of proverbs in pedagogical speech.

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Yuri Berezkin is Head of American Department at the Peter the Great Museum of Anthropology and Ethnology (Kunstkamera), Russian Academy of Sciences, and Professor of the European University at St Petersburg (Faculty of Anthropology). He has published more than 300 papers and several books on American Indian and Siberian mythology, Peruvian iconography, and Central Asian archaeology. During the last 15 years he has been engaged in creating the electronic database of world mythology and folklore and in the research of the areal distribution of motifs.

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Aimar Ventsel is researcher of the University of Tartu and visiting scholar at the University of Warwick. He studies music, youth cultures, property relations in the music business, and identity construction among native people of East Siberia and punks and skinheads in East Germany.

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