

## 1) Title, Abstract & Keywords

Stand up for education: the use of humor for teaching and learning

This session provides a practical guide for incorporating humor into the classroom environment, including introducing participants to various types of humor and how to construct a humorous anecdote into their teaching.

High education; teaching; learning; humor

## 2) Teaching Implications:

This session is applicable to all management topics, but particularly those that might be supported by stories or practical examples that draw on the teacher's own experiences. Marques (2012 p.66) identified that humor fits perfectly into the trend for greater classroom engagement in higher education both in terms of learning and also in reducing stress, which can help with first year students making the transition from High School. Where challenging concepts are presented it can help break through the anxiety and tension (Armstrong 2002), but some forms of humor can also help develop critical thinking (Hayes 2016). However, while there have been theoretical papers regarding strategies (Nasiri & Mafakheri 2015) there is less practical help for lecturers in overcoming the difficulties of creating material and delivery.

## 3) Session Description and Plan:

10 minutes to introduce some basic humor concepts

10 minutes converting a line from a story into a humorous form

10 minutes participant performance

## 4) Application to Conference theme:

Students are less-willing to accept the higher education process as the simple transmission of education from expert to scholar. They are also becoming more critical in their evaluations.

Humor is one mechanism for creating stronger memories and more positive classroom interactions.

## 5) Unique Contribution to OBTC:

This work has not been presented at any other conference/workshop before

## References

Armstrong, P. (2002) *You're having a laugh! Learning as fun*, presented at SCUTREA, 32nd Annual Conference, 2-4 July 2002, University of Stirling. Available from:

<http://www.leeds.ac.uk/educol/documents/00002057.htm> [accessed 09/01/2017].

Hayes, N. (2016) *Satire as an Educative Tool for Critical Pedagogy in the Public Affairs Classroom*, *Administrative Theory and Praxis*, 38, pp.251-266.

Marques, J. (2012) *Enlightened Teaching Strategies in an Enlightened Era: Applying Humor in Business Education*, Newport: Elm Street Press.

Nasiri, F. & Mafakheri, F. (2015) *Higher Education Lecturing and Humor: From Perspectives to Strategies*, *Higher education Studies*, 5 (5), pp.26-31