



# Understanding Humor through Communication: Why Be Funny, Anyway?

*John C. Meyer*

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## **Understanding Humor through Communication: Why Be Funny, Anyway?** John C. Meyer

Understanding Humor through Communication explores theories of humor origin as well as humor functions in human groups and societies through communication. A model of humor decision by individuals is detailed, followed by humor's emergence in communication. Elements of humor sources (incongruity, superiority, and relief), humor intent (comic or tragic perspectives), and humor perception (ego-involvement, script awareness, bona-fide messages, and non-bona-fide messages) are incorporated. Persuasive, organizational, and interpersonal settings involving humor are explored in depth to consider its functions. The individual choice to experience humor is detailed in its effects, as are the social implications of widespread humor desired and invoked in human society. *Understanding Humor through Communication* will appeal to scholars of communication, psychology, and sociology.

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