



*We are very proud to herald the second issue of de genere, dedicated to the delicate and sometimes thorny topic of humour at the crossroad of gender and race. The issue comes out in the wake of Trump's election as President of the United States, and at the end of a year that has seen political correctness often featured in public discourse as a proxy for censorship. In this context, humour emerges as an aggressive practice against minorities, while at the same time retaining its power as a register of resistance against dominant discourses. This issue has proven more topical than we initially thought; and we want to thank editors Giuseppe Balirano and Delia Chiaro for their bravery and foresight, and for choosing to work with the journal at an early stage of its history.*

*The issue also features an impressive set of methodologies which mirrors the many and diverse interests of this journal. In particular, it enacts a rare and precious dialogue between linguistics and the concerns and issues put forward by cultural studies. Several of the contributions include discourse analysis of linguistic phenomena concerning the representation of LGBTQ+ communities, while others focus on the work of artists – writers, performers, filmmakers – who have confronted and overturned oppressive stereotypes through humour as a discursive strategy of resistance. Putting these different approaches side by side intends to foster dialogue not only between different representations, but also among disciplines – an aim to which de genere is strongly dedicated.*

*To host such a diverse collection necessarily means to welcome visions which do not necessarily align with our journal policy; for example, the journal does not share the deterministic vision of sexual difference that emerges in some of the essays, while it endorses the idea that individual and social identities are constructed – among other things – through language, as emerges in many of the contributions included here. Yet the essays as a whole bear witness to the diversity of a debate that, albeit sometimes humorous in reading, is no laughing matter.*

*Cover image: Street corner with TFI campaign "Pool Guys" - Bray 2016. Ph. Giuseppe Balirano.*

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