



**Call for proposals**

SYMPOSIUM

## **Teacherly Laughter and Scholarly Laughter**

Organized by the  
Department of French and Francophone Studies  
Trent University

Zoom teleconference (April 27, 2021: 10:00-14:00)

Teaching and research are too serious occupations not to benefit from laughter. Who has never given to the temptation — be it in front of an audience of students or colleagues, or in front of their computer screen in the process of developing a future article — to embellish their speech with a joke, a pun, a proverb, an allusion, a (self)ironic comment, an antiphrasis, an anecdote, a paradox, or some other process specific to the rhetoric of humour? This desire to make people laugh that threatens professors, teachers and researchers cannot be blamed on a simple accident of the mood. It must respond to an external need. We know, since Bergson, that laughter has a social function. We also know, from the oratory technique, the benefit that can be drawn from the humour of a speech. But what about educational activity and research work? What benefits can *amusing speech* bring to them?

Those are the questions that will be asked and addressed during this one-day symposium. This event has been thought as a virtual roundtable to which are invited faculty members as well as graduate students. Papers (15 minutes) can be given either in English or French but should be connected in some way to the fields of French and Francophone Studies or Language studies. To participate, please send a title and a short description of your paper (along with your name and affiliation) to Iulian Toma ([iuliantoma@trentu.ca](mailto:iuliantoma@trentu.ca)) and Isabelle Fournier ([isabellefournier@trentu.ca](mailto:isabellefournier@trentu.ca)) by April 15, 2021.