

Sickness, Suffering, and Death Walk into a Bar

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This is my thesis: humor, or a sense of humor, is indeed a special way of looking at things and thinking about them. It's rare, not because it is the gift of a chosen few, but because its reasoning is very different from conventional thought (sometimes, exactly the opposite), and most people are not interested or can't afford to relate to the world in such a way. We are trained to know what things are, not to waste time investigating what they seem to be, or might be. This conference discusses some characteristics of that special way of looking at the world that is humor.



Ricardo Araújo Pereira is a comedian with a prestigious career in Portugal and Brazil, who also writes on the theory of humor, and the relation between humor and freedom of expression. He started his career as a scriptwriter and was part of the comedy group Gato Fedorento, which has been a constant presence on TV and social media for the last fifteen years. He participates in weekly TV shows in Portugal, and is correspondent for *Visão* (Portugal) and *Folha de São Paulo* (Brazil). He is the season ticket member n.º 12 049 of the Sport Lisboa and Benfica soccer team.

Edith Piaf famously declared she didn't regret anything. Lucky her. I'm the exact opposite: I regret everything. This which I do daily is not exactly living. It's just the draft for another life. I would need to make a clean copy and start behaving. My epitaph will probably be "Here lies Ricardo Araújo Pereira, with his palm on his face." That's exactly what I will do, I guess, just before dying. A facepalm, while saying: Oh, so this is how I should have lived."

Organized by the Minor in Portuguese and Brazilian Studies.

