

Okayama University
Japan x SDGs Virtual Global Circuit Academic Seminar

Zoom Webinar

The Role of Humor in Foreign Language Education
and Cross-Cultural Communication



March 5, 2021 (Friday): 17:00 ~ 19:00 (JST), 08:00~10:00 (UTC)

Lecturer: Prof. John Rucynski

Abstract

Humor has the potential to break down cultural barriers, but there are also vast differences regarding how humor is used in different cultures. These differences often complicate cross-cultural communication and lead to misunderstandings. John will provide an overview of his efforts to empower his English language learners by increasing their awareness of how humor is used in the target cultures. Participants will also be invited to share their humor successes and failures in cross-cultural contexts.

About the Speaker

John Rucynski is Associate Professor in the Center for Liberal Arts and Language Education at Okayama University. In addition to teaching English at the university level in Japan for the last 15 years, he has also taught EFL/ESL in Morocco, New Zealand, and the United States. He has edited two volumes on humor in language teaching, *New Ways in Teaching with Humor* (TESOL Press) and *Bridging the Humor Barrier* (Lexington Books, with Caleb Prichard).

Registration: <http://campus-asia.ccsv.okayama-u.ac.jp/en>