

A History of Laughing & Crying

Presented by: Thomas Scheff

Four Mondays November 21, 28, December 5, & 12, 2016 9:30 am - 12:30 pm

Valle Verde - Social Room 900 Calle de los Amigos, Santa Barbara

A brief review of the treatment of laughing and crying in past and current literature. This discussion will be begin with the Greek philosopher Aristotle (Third Century B.C.), who discussed "the purgation of pity and terror in theatre audiences" and since then has figured largely in theories of drama in the humanities (Belifiore 1992).

The word terror obviously refers to the emotion of fear, but the word pity is not an adequate translation of Aristotle's usage. He was referring not to a specific emotion in the modern sense, but to empathic identification with one or more of the characters in the drama. It is important to note that the whole definition concerns only a very narrow domain, emotional reactions of members of an audience to drama. A large part of the problem with social and psychological research on catharsis involves an unwarranted broadening of the definition of catharsis, as will be discussed below.

One part of Aristotle's treatment of catharsis has been especially puzzling to modern readers: his insistence that catharsis in drama was not only a source of entertainment and pleasure, but also a necessity for the survival of a society in the long run.



Deadline for registration: November 14th

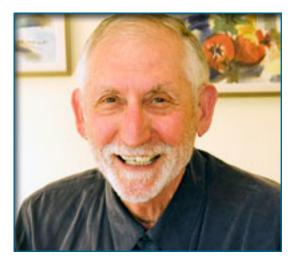
Enrollment Form: Laughing & Crying - Nov 21,28, Dec 5, & 12, 2016 VISTAS Members \$50 - Nonmembers \$75

Name(s):	Amount Enclosed \$C	heck#
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Or you may go to ou	r wohsite and trav hv secure credit card throug	rh PavPal

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Please check here if you would like to volunteer to help with refreshments ___

BIOGRAPHY: Thomas Scheff is Professor Emeritus at the University of California, SantaBarbara. He is past president of the Pacific Sociological Association, and past chair of the Emotions Section of the American Sociological Assoc. Some of his earlier publications are Being Mentally Ill, Microsociology, Bloody Revenge, Emotions, the Social Bond and Human Reality, Goffman Unbound!, What's Love Got to Do with It?: Emotions and Relationships in Pop Songs, and Easy Rider. He is interested in creative teaching and integration of the social, political, behavioral and clinical arts and sciences, and particularly, the integration of these disciplines into new directions of thought and effort.



Linked Books and matrials here: http://www.soc.ucsb.edu/faculty/scheff/

VISTAS Calendar Seminar/Event **Inclusive Dates** Venue Time 12:30 pm **Tuckers Grove Annual Picnic** Sunday, September 11 Documentary Film Club 3rd Thurs Monthly 2:00 pm Maravilla Theater Nonfiction Book Club 3rd Wed Monthly 1:30 pm Vista del Monte-Sierra Madre Cinematographic Elections Mon, Sept 12,19,26 9:30 am Maravilla Theater Macbeth Thurs, Sept 22 9:30 am Valle Verde-SB Room Initiative/Referendum Process Thur, Sept 29, Oct 6,13 9:30 am Goleta Library Trials of the Century Mon, Oct 10-Nov 14 Valle Verde - Social Room 9:30 am Valle Verde - Social Room Poetry & Metaphor Tues, Oct 18,25, Nov 1 1:30 pm Brazil's Econ/Political Wed, Oct 19 9:30 am Valle Verde - Social Room LGBT/Transgender/Transsexual: What Is Being Taught in College Courses Today? Tues, Oct 25 9:30 am Valle Verde - Social Room Thurs, Nov 10 Goleta Library Post Election Analysis 1:30 pm Eleanor Roosevelt Wed, Nov 16 1:30 pm Valle Verde - Social Room Laughing & Crying Mon, Nov 21,28, Dec 5,12 9:30 am Valle Verde - Social Room