

## Humor in Distance Teaching – Join our Webinar on July 1st 2020 15:30-17:00 CESt

Humor has a variety of positive effects:

- motivates and energizes everybody
- builds positive relationships
- stimulates creativity
- is a powerful means to deliver content



Nevertheless, many people regard their topics as too serious to engage with humor or are afraid of negative outcomes when using humor inappropriately. This is why integrating humor in teaching has not yet become commonplace for educators.

However, is humor in times of crisis and distance teaching ever appropriate? Can everybody be funny or is humor a gift? What limitations have to be considered?

### In this webinar:

- A team from WU Vienna will share first hand experiences from an **award-winning course**, in which students develop scripts inspired by late-night comedy (such as John Oliver's *Last Week Tonight*)
- Two esteemed colleagues from the United States, Lisa Stickney and Jim Lemoine, will provide insights into how they effectively incorporate humor into their teaching strategies (based on a workshop held in summer 2019 at the **Academy of Management's Annual Meeting** in Boston).
- An **improv theatre actress** and a **radio journalist** will show you how to develop the right mind-set and how you can help students to become more creative.



**Join our second webinar on July 1<sup>st</sup> 2020** and learn how you can effectively incorporate humor into distance teaching. A team of professionals from academia, radio and improv theatre will share experiences on

- The **dos and don'ts** of humor in your classroom
- How to integrate humor in your **course design**
- Challenges of humor in **virtual course settings**

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### What our students said:

- “By far the best course of my master studies.”
- “A great opportunity apart from the common learning formats.”
- “A completely new approach to very serious challenges.”
- “This course was great fun and pushed us to invest even more time than was expected from us.”
- We learnt soft-skills for knowledge transfer that are extremely useful for life.”

### Behind the scenes:

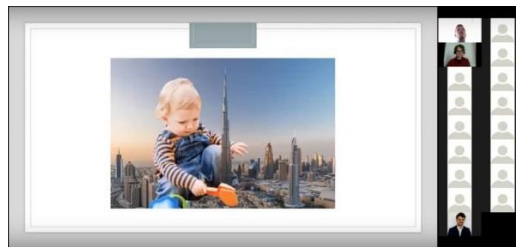
“Best of Austria Award”  
by the Austrian Ministry of  
Sustainability and Tourism



Humor in John Oliver style



Virtual performance  
of a monologue on  
“The Sand Crisis”



Interview on  
“Humor and Sustainability”  
with the Austrian  
public television (ORF)

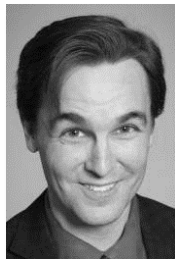


**Meet the organizers and trainers:****André Martinuzzi**

WU Vienna, Head of the Institute for Managing Sustainability and creative director of the "Teaching Humor" project

**Lisa T. Stickney**

Professor of Management at the University of Baltimore who routinely uses humor in her classes, both online and face-to-face

**G. James Lemoine**

University at Buffalo – State University of New York, assistant professor researching and teaching at the intersection of leadership, ethics and creativity

**Angelo Spörk**

WU Vienna, former radio journalist and storytelling expert

**Florian Findler**

WU Vienna, teaching and research associate and organizer of a workshop on "Humor and Sustainability" at the Academy of Management's Annual Meeting 2019

**Magda Leeb**

Improv actor (TV and stage) teaching improv, creating shows with Austrian stand-up-artists and writing comedy formats

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Within the LIVING INNOVATION community platform, the Institute for Managing Sustainability, WU Vienna, successfully hosts a [discussion forum and webinars series](#) where experts from various fields share their experiences with distance teaching.

- You developed and implemented innovative online courses?
- You would like to share experiences with colleagues from around the world?
- You want insights into best practices?
- You would like to co-create the university of the future?

[Take part in our Joint Action "Smart Universities"](#) and/or share your experiences in one of our next webinars.

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