

Acknowledgements

My deepest appreciation goes first to Salvatore Attardo, without whose encouragement this work would not have been undertaken. Victor Raskin and Willibald Ruch provided essential feedback that helped me sharpen my arguments and broaden the scope of my perspective. Many other colleagues in humor studies were similarly helpful, sharing comments, questions, insights, and examples that allowed me develop my thinking. Of special note are Christie Davies and Moira Smith, who were particularly generous and encouraging.

My husband, Mark Anderson, deserves recognition for having both the knack and the patience for wading through YouTube videos to identify examples of failed humor. Nicole Houser also collected data, although here the gratitude is really due to Barb Houser, whose attempts at humor (along with her sense of style) have earned her her own Facebook fan page.

Finally, many thanks to Emily Farrell and Marcia Schwartz for shepherding me through the publication process with lots of laughs along the way.