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# Select bibliography of Christie Davies' works

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## Introduction

Before I began work on this list I was advised that Christie Davies was a prolific author, and truer words were never spoken. Christie was not only a leading scholar in international humor studies but also a sociologist, a frequent commentator on current affairs, and an even more prolific reviewer of books and art exhibitions. In addition to numerous academic books and articles, he published joke books (1973, 1978) and a children's book (2006). He wrote at least 101 book reviews between 1984 and 2018.

In the select bibliography that follows, I have attempted to include every academic book, article, and book review from Christie's pen, not just in humor studies but also in sociology. The range of scholarly journals in which he published is wide, including humor, sociology, folklore, anthropology, religious studies, and death studies. He published in venues worldwide from Poland to Japan and Australia. He also wrote for important magazines such as the *Economist* and the *New Criterion*. In addition, he published an enormous amount in online journals and blogs. For the Social Affairs Unit blog alone, he wrote 152 posts from July 2004 through April 2013, making him the single most prolific contributor to this libertarian site. Space and time preclude a complete listing of all of the blog posts and art exhibit reviews. I have included all that pertain to humor along with a select few items on other topics to give a sense of the full range of Christie's thought.

Regardless of the venue, Christie writes clearly, precisely, and with a wicked sense of humor. I believe that this clear prose stems from the fact that he was never afraid to say exactly what he thought. He did not hold with obfuscation or political correctness and had no patience with those who did. His sociological training shows up in a recurring emphasis on the superiority of data over ideology. "We need to ask the questions how? how much? and why?" he wrote, in "Goffman's concept of the total institution" (1989), an injunction that he repeated in other writings. He appreciated

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good humor and was a master humorist himself, but he did not allow his love for a good joke to influence his thought about the potential power of humor.

I leave off with a tantalizing glimpse of what might have been. “Well,” he wrote at the conclusion of a 2005 blog post about the pleasures of retirement,

I must get back to writing my next book, which is to be called *Bastards!* It is not about New Labour but is a comparative and historical study of illegitimacy. I have thirty years of reading, thinking and note taking to catch up on and I no longer have to go to the office” (“On Retirement,” 2005).

Sadly, we will have to imagine that book. It would have been a great one.

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## Bionote

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