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### **The Mail-order Bride as a Figure of Fun**

Is ridicule of social identities different from one's own back at the top of the comedic agenda? This paper explores the apparent 'post-pc' return to deriving laughter from stereotypes.

I argue that to try to understand these satirical developments, we need to unpick different kinds of representations and the ends they serve. The paper isolates the motif of sexualised humour about mail order brides from developing countries. This is to question whether any progressiveness applies in cases where the stereotype humour of socially unmarked comedians is focused upon groups with little established social power. Taking the character of *Ting Tong* in *Little Britain* as a case study, I argue that liberal suppositions that all can laugh at all in an egalitarian manner are belied when inscriptions of particular bodies symbolically reinforce constructions of person-value that are operative in racialised material economies.