



# WHOSE SATIRE IS IT ANYWAY?

Dr David Taylor

What do free speech,  
satire, justice and truth  
mean today?

In 1817, satirist William Hone was put on trial for libel after publishing three parodies of religious texts that attacked the royal family and the government.

David Taylor considers how Hone's three trials reflect the function of satire in society from 1800 until today.

Through his research into political satire, both visual and written, he explores how it acts as a way for satirists to skilfully expose what some would prefer remained hidden. Dr Taylor brings the text of Hone's trials to a modern audience, inviting us to consider forms of political protest and the limits of satire.

Dr David Taylor is an Associate Professor in the English and Comparative Literary Studies Department at the University of Warwick. He specialises in the literature and culture of the eighteenth century. During the Production of Truth, Justice and History, Dr Taylor will be working with Coventry-based theatre group, EGO Performance Company, who have devised a piece based on his research, and will be convening a panel of modern-day satirists to debate the question 'Must Satire Offend?'.

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