



BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

5th European Conference on Argumentation



Tuesday, September 23 – Friday, September 26, 2025
Warsaw University of Technology, Poland

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Argumentation in the Digital Society

The special theme of this conference is Argumentation in the Digital Society. The main objective of the conference is to identify the key research areas related to the dynamics of change and development in today's digitised society. Social media bring with them many new communication opportunities and open up a range of exciting challenges related to new forms of argumentation with unprecedented reach and associated social impact. They may also generate phenomena that can negatively affect the rationality and the reasonableness of argumentative discourse. Particularly noteworthy among these is the phenomenon of polarisation, which is of considerable importance for the distancing of social groups (including social media user communities) from each other, as well as phenomena such as the spread of fake news, offensive language, and hate speech. These and other phenomena in digitised communication may constitute a block to the development of rational and reasonable activity in argumentative discourse. Hence there is a need to develop the theoretical tools of argumentation and related disciplines that allow discussion and argument to be founded on trust, charity, and goodwill. The conference aims to explore these topics and ensure a high-quality exchange of research results.



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KEYNOTE LECTURES

Credibility at a Crossroads: Lessons from the Past and a Look to the Future

Miriam Metzger
University of California, Santa Barbara, US

This talk will open by looking at how past research in the social sciences helps us understand why people believe misinformation—even in the face of correction and, based on that, how to design interventions to counter misinformation and fake news most effectively. It will then consider questions about the future of credibility as the digital society evolves to incorporate more and more AI-generated information.

Tuesday, September 23 17:15 – 18:30 Mata Aula / Small Auditorium

Exploring deception / manipulation (online) using Trump as a case study

Dawn Archer

Manchester Metropolitan University, Manchester, UK

This keynote draws upon President Trump's recent interactions on his online social media platform, Truth Social, to demonstrate how he attempts to manipulate the reality paradigms of his base so that they interpret specific events through a particular (namely, his) perceptual lens. Reality paradigms, here, equate to the truth filters that individuals see through, draw from, and rely upon when making sense of the world, thereby colouring their worldview (Archer 2002, 2011, 2020, forthcoming). The presentation will focus upon the linguistic features that Trump draws upon most regularly, linking these to the discourse "moves"/fallacies discussed in detail by authors such as Mercieca (2017, 2020), who have also extensively explored Trump's rhetorical strategies (including but not limited to *ad hominem*, *ad baculum*, *ad populum* and reification). Special attention will be paid to his recent unusual behaviour of attacking his supporters, not just those he frames as enemies (see, e.g., the recent fallout over the Epstein files).

Wednesday, September 24 9:00 – 10:15 Mała Aula / Small Auditorium

Constructing the contemporary audience for argument

Jean Goodwin

North Carolina State University, Raleigh, US

The audience of argument is a construction of the speaker; so Perelman has told us. For reasons of both effectiveness and ethics, arguers therefore need to get their audiences right. In this talk, I will hazard that some of the woes of contemporary public argumentation result from failures to adequately construct an audience. Social scientific research has shown that we tend to overestimate others' extremism, due in part to biases in social cognition and to the misleading impacts of social media. These misunderstandings of others' political views lead to pathologies in the practice of argumentation, especially a deformation of the disagreement space away from the consequences of a policy in addressing a problem in the world and towards its consequences on those who are perceived as extremists. Imagined polarization can thus become real polarization, as arguers feel justified in taking as enemies those who have in their arguments taken them as enemies. I close with some – likely inadequate! – suggestions about what this argumentation studies community can do to respond to the challenge, and by emphasizing the continued importance of attention to the social dimensions of argumentation. Argumentation is persons exchanging arguments, and if we can help the persons better understand what they owe each other, we can trust them to improve the quality of their arguments.

Friday September 26 9:00 – 10:15 Mała Aula / Small Auditorium

LONG PAPERS

A

Digitalized uses of argumentation: An early case of arguing with AI-infused systems

Mark Aakhus

Commentator: Beth Innocenti

This paper explores how digital platforms inherently make complex arguments about communication—specifically, how argumentation works and ought to work in fostering communication qualities. The Botto Bistro vs. Yelp Inc. case illustrates how Yelp.com formalizes and orchestrates interactions to manage disagreement about local businesses. Botto Bistro implemented various tactics, culminating in “1-star” reviews, contesting Yelp.com’s uses of argumentation in its curated communication. The analysis highlights a key task for argumentation theory: recognizing the participation of platforms in argumentation and understanding how contesting their digitalization of argumentation practice opens a rich space for design argumentation, revealing normative aspects of human-machine interaction.

Wednesday, September 24 14:30 – 15:30 Room 4.04

Precedent and Legal Change

Priscila Andrade

Commentator: Luís Duarte D'Almeida

The continued use of precedent leads to novel cases that test its boundaries. Deciding a case based on a not-exactly-alike precedent raises questions about how case law evolves in response to novelties. This paper claims there is no single answer—it depends on the account of precedent used. Legal philosophers offer differing models: rule-based, reason-based, and analogy-based. Yet, how each model explains legal change from novel cases is underexplored. This paper develops a conceptual, comparative framework of legal change across these accounts, addressing a gap in the literature by systematically comparing how precedent theories link novel adjudication to legal development.

Thursday, September 25 11:00 – 11:30 Room 4.02

B

Designing and Analysing Argument Mining Pipelines: Towards a comprehensive assessment

Siddharth Bhargava, Sara Tonelli and Patricia Martín-Rodilla

Commentator: Shiyang Yu

Argument mining (AM) transforms natural language into structured argument representations through ordered, theory-driven tasks, collectively forming an AM system. Often these systems differ in methodology and adoption of argumentation theory, making direct comparison difficult and cumbersome. We propose to analyze these systems by defining their AM pipelines, which efficiently map data flow, argument processing stages, and task architectures. Based on a systematic review of 30 AM systems, we define a pipeline framework for two of the processing stages—linguistic and computational—that enables comprehensive and comparative assessment, facilitates understanding of design choices, and supports evaluation of applicability, adaptability, and scalability across domains.

Thursday, September 25 11:00 – 12:00 Room 4.04

D

The arguer and the argument

Michel Dufour

Commentator: John Casey

Siegel's formula (2023) "Arguments (in the abstract propositional sense) are what arguers traffic in when arguing" inspired this discussion on the relation arguer/argument, especially the common tendency to ascribe to the arguer a precedence over 'her' argument. In short: "The arguer produces the product". But when it becomes a principle, this commonplace underestimates the receiver's interpretive job that often involves a critical activity. This activity is frequently neglected, an omission that illustrates the precedence of the arguer: her argument is supposed clear and complete. But various aspects of the traffic of arguments suggest that a really general theory of argumentation should reevaluate the receiver's critical role in the making of arguments.

Thursday, September 25 12:00 – 13:00 Room 4.04

G

On the distinction between arguments and explanations

José Ángel Gascón

Commentator: Petar Bodlović

The three most common criteria for distinguishing arguments from explanations are the discourse function, the status of the claim, and the status of the reasons. Although those criteria work well in simple and clear cases, they do not provide enough guidance to interpret many other discourses—they are too abstract, or have too many exceptions, or ignore the practical domain where we explain and justify our actions. I propose an alternative approach based on assessment standards and the principle of charity, which I believe is more faithful to how we intuitively distinguish between those two kinds of discourse in practice.

Thursday, September 25 12:00 – 13:00 Room 4.01

A Pragma-dialectical Analysis of the Rule of Law Debate in the European Union

Frank Jacobus Adrianus Goossens

Commentator: Corina Andone

This paper examines how deep disagreement emerges in the European Parliament's debates on the Article 7 procedure regarding the Rule of Law in Hungary. A pragma-dialectical analysis of four debates (2018–2024) identifies four features of deep disagreement: First, a lack of common ground arises from fundamental conceptual differences over the Rule of Law. Second, the disagreement is systematic, as the argumentation cuts across domains. Third, persistence is shown through unaltered arguments and the procedure's duration. Finally, rational resolution is difficult, as parties use persuasive rather than rational strategies. This pragma-dialectical analysis strengthens the empirical understanding of deep disagreement theory.

Wednesday, September 24 15:30 – 16:30 Room 4.02

H

Argumentative Resistance and Non-Ideal Argumentation

Amalia Haro Marchal

Commentator: Dima Mohammed

This paper challenges the neutral view of argumentation according to which all participants enter argumentative exchanges on equal footing. Drawing on feminist argumentation theory, it argues that in contexts shaped by power imbalances, marginalized speakers often face exclusionary practices that restrict their argumentative agency. The paper introduces the concept of argumentative resistance as a discursive strategy deployed by oppressed individuals in argumentative settings governed by unjust norms. It identifies two forms of argumentative resistance: the refusal to provide reasons when justificatory demands are perceived as unfair, and the refusal to consider certain arguments as worthy of dialectical engagement.

Friday, September 26 14:30 – 15:30 Room 4.04

Evaluating Visual Arguments through Critical Questions: How Plausible is Normative Non-revisionism?

Bitia Heshmati

Commentator: David Godden

Visual arguments are communicative acts in which images serve argumentative purposes. I address two questions regarding their evaluation: first, what normative criteria are necessary for evaluating images, and second, does the method of raising critical questions aid in assessing visual arguments? Drawing on Walton et al. (2008) and Tseronis et al. (2024), I argue that existing critical questions help evaluate visually conveyed propositions. However, an additional question is necessary to assess the clarity and cognitive effectiveness of visual arguments. Following Godden's Normative Non-revisionism (2017), I defend a non-revisionist view on using critical questions to evaluate visual arguments.

Friday, September 26 12:00 – 13:00 Room 4.04

Long papers

Pragma-Dialectical Monologue

Michael Hoppmann and Brooke Hubsch

Commentator: Lotte van Poppel

This paper investigates how the rules for critical discussion from pragma-dialectics can be applied to a critical monologue. We engage in a systematic assessment of one canonical exposition of the pragma-dialectical system, the 2004 A systematic theory of argumentation. We track and collect the aims that each rule is attempting protect. Taking this teleological approach then allows us to compare the lists of aims and values and identify the goal for each rule. Finally, we offer a tentative list of adapted rules that reflect the switch from a dialogue to a monologue as the default paradigm of critical exchange.

Thursday, September 25 12:00 – 13:00 Room 4.02

K

A good bad argument for giving your money away. Argumentation and reasoning in online fraud and scams

Jens Kjeldsen

Commentator: Edward Schiappa

Everyday millions of people around the world are scammed out of their savings by ruthless online criminals. This presentation demonstrates how a scammer rhetorically defrauds a Danish woman out of more than 40.000 Euro. In a close analysis of audio recordings of conversations between the scammer and the victim, I examine the persuasive reasoning of the scammer, including his construction of ethos and trust, and the argumentative aspects of the relation-building with his victim. The presentation also explores the “education-style” rhetoric the scammer uses to make the victim engage in the fake online investment platform.

Wednesday, September 24 14:30 – 15:30 Room 4.01

L

Dilemmas of charity in argumentation

Marcin Lewinski

Commentator: Katharina Stevens

The paper discusses the Principle of Charity (PC) as a methodical guideline to adopt the strongest possible reconstruction of an argument, rather than some weaker or flawed version of it which could also be plausibly derived. When and how can PC be consistently applied? I argue that the context of strategic online communication limits the applicability of PC. I further defend the Conceptual Unity Perspective on PC, which stresses the continuity of the principle across the philosophy of language and argumentation theory. I end by analyzing two dilemmas in applying PC: the part-whole dilemma and the bite-the-hand-that-feeds-you dilemma.

Thursday, September 25 11:00 – 12:00 Room 4.01

Extending the notion of argumentative patterns

Costanza Maria Lucchini

Commentator: Mark Aakhus

This paper reconceptualizes argumentative patterns beyond the pragma-dialectical tradition (van Eemeren, 2016; 2018), addressing key definitional and methodological limitations. It introduces the notion of argumentative configurations, redefining patterns as empirically recurring and contextually relevant argumentative configurations. This reframing avoids a priori context modeling and accommodates under-specified or dialogically structured patterns (Musi & Aakhus, 2018; D'Agostino & Rocci, 2024). A refined, empirically grounded methodology is proposed and illustrated through examples from the financial domain, showing how context-sensitive configurations emerge in real discourse and how they can enrich our understanding of argumentation in practice.

Friday, September 26 14:30 – 15:30 Room 4.02

M

On the Interconnectedness of Framing and Argumentation: An Empirical Analysis of Persuasive Functions in Climate Movements' Public-Strategic Communication

Henri Mütschele

Commentator: Daria Evangelista

This study examines the persuasive functions of German climate movements by combining the concept of framing with argumentation theory. Frame elements are conceptualized as validity claims requiring justification. Using a manual quantitative content analysis of 584 press releases by Fridays for Future and Last Generation from (10/2021–05/2024) each frame element was coded for justification and argument type. While justification breadth per frame element does not differ significantly between movements, Last Generation relies more on consequence- and commitment-based arguments, while FFF uses a more diverse range. The study demonstrates the analytical and empirical value of integrating frame and argument analysis.

Wednesday, September 24 15:30 – 16:30 Room 4.01

R

Troubles with Bayesian Argumentation

Jonas Raab

Commentator: Frank Zenker

This paper introduces and motivates the Bayesian approach to argumentation as presented, among others, by Ulrike Hahn in order to bring forward four criticisms that show that this approach is inadequate. The problems that arise are concerned with (i) an issue with argumentation standard, (ii) logical reasoning, (iii) a specific kind of argument, and (iv) an arbitrariness issue. Overall, the paper concludes that the Bayesian approach cannot be saved.

Friday, September 26 12:00 – 13:00 Room 4.01

S

When are arguments from scholarly legal authority legitimate?

Fabio Perin Shecaira and Luís Duarte D'Almeida

Commentator: Yanlin Liao

Judges often cite legal scholars. Sometimes they defer argumentatively to scholars as authorities. Such arguments, we claim, are rarely sound. Legal scholarship serves two functions. One is modest and descriptive: reporting the undisputed content of legal sources and existing consensuses on some point of law. Such matters can lend themselves to authoritative settlement. But the core function of legal scholarship, involving the substantive reconstruction of suboptimal legal sources, is normative. And on such matters, we argue—by discussing the structure of arguments from authority and what counts as genuine authority—there is no room to treat scholarly pronouncements as authoritative.

Wednesday, September 24 14:30 – 15:30 Room 4.02

T

Perspectives on Argumentation: A Topic Modelling Approach

Natalija Todorovic

Commentator: Nina Shtok

Argumentation studies are an interdisciplinary research area, comprised of three perspectives of different disciplinary rooting, with borders becoming increasingly blurred. Yet, no comprehensive study mapped the entire community while identifying potential drivers of interdisciplinarity. We aim to systematically map argumentation studies by analysing its cognitive content and social structure. We performed topic modelling on 15,000 documents indexed by Scopus that include 'argumentation' in title, abstract, or keywords to identify distinct research topics, which we describe in terms of their disciplinary rooting. The topics align with perspectives on argumentation and highlight their interdisciplinary connections through shared cognitive concepts and multi-topic authorship.

Friday, September 26 14:30 – 15:30 Room 4.01

W

Beyond argument schemes: Rethinking argument analysis and reconstruction through the notion of ‘argument type’

Jean Wagemans

Commentator: Hans V Hansen

This paper articulates the advantages of the argument classification framework of the Periodic Table of Arguments (PTA) by comparing its underlying notion of ‘argument type’ to the conceptualizations of argument employed in the Toulmin model and Walton’s argumentation schemes. While the latter theories have significantly shaped the field, they exhibit severe limitations, particularly in handling the inferential diversity and structural complexity of real-life argumentative or persuasive discourse. The paper demonstrates how the PTA addresses these limitations by offering a systematic and comprehensive taxonomy of argument types that shows conceptual coherence across the micro, meso, and macro levels of argumentation analysis.

Friday, September 26 12:00 – 13:00 Room 4.02

Dialogue Cartography

Simon Wells

Commentator: John Lawrence

In this paper we introduce the Zonal ARgumentative DialOgue visualiZation (ZARDOZ) method, an integrated and comprehensive dialogue diagramming methodology, for use in analysing, understanding, mapping, and exploring, argumentative dialogues. We illustrate and explore the method by making use of, and mapping, two exemplar dialogues due to Walton, the tipping dialogue and the Santa Claus dialogue, and a third dialogue stemming from an online interaction about the 1969 Moon landings. This way we demonstrate diagramming of the classical dialogues from the argumentation theoretic literature alongside contemporary, multi-party, online interactions.

Wednesday, September 24 15:30 – 16:30 Room 4.04

THEMATIC PANELS

Thematic panels

Panel 1: Thursday, Sept. 25 14:30 – 17:00 Room 4.01

The role of Argumentation in Modeling Social Media Polarization

Maria Vanina Martinez, Katarzyna Budzynska and Carles Sierra

One hallmark of the digital society is the use of visual images to argue and persuade. This is an inevitable consequence of digital technologies that allow arguers to easily create and distribute (and modify and adjust) photographs, illustrations, film, videos, tables, graphs, PowerPoint slides, VR presentations, etc. These technological developments have provided arguers with visual tools that are used (and often abused) when one constructs an argument. This panel discusses both the theoretical and practical issues this raises in ways that respond to the argumentation literature (that argues for and against visual and multimodal arguments), and the use of visual arguing in a variety of contexts (in science, literature, politics, advertising, and art).

Panel 1 presentations:

Mapping Factual Belief Polarization through Causal Profiles in Climate-Focused Discussions

Nataly Pineda, Liesbeth Allein, Andrea Rocci and Marie-Francine Moens

Our paper examines the framing of causal explanations in potentially polarized Reddit discussions about climate change, with the aim of elucidating how divergences in the representation of complex causal processes may contribute to sustain and deepen ideological divides in climate change debates. Using a two-step method, we first identify and categorize causal claims and then situate these within argumentative structures. The first step—identifying and categorizing causal expressions—reveals the distinct ways in which different groups articulate causation. The second step—analyzing how these causal expressions function within argumentative structures demonstrates how disagreements over causality manifest in argumentative dialogue.

Thursday, September 25 14:30 – 15:00 Room 4.01

Thematic panels

Analyzing Social Polarization through Multi-Agent Modelling of Argumentation

Stephanie Malvicini, Ewelina Gajewska, Arda Derbent,
Katarzyna Budzynska, Jarosław A. Chudziak and Vanina Martinez

Social polarization is deepening as individuals increasingly align with one side of a debate (Mäs & Flache, 2013; Banisch & Olbrich, 2021). Argument exchanges reinforce beliefs and intensify divisions (Isenberg, 1986). Our multi-agent model simulates debates on issues like climate change, analyzing the effects of rhetorical strategies—ethos and pathos—on polarization. It incorporates emotional tone and abusive language (Keijzer, 2018), tracking how styles spread as agents "follow the leader." By analysing debate dynamics, we explore how emotionality and argument style shape discourse. This approach offers insights into polarization mitigations and helps inform strategies for fostering more constructive public dialogue.

Thursday, September 25 15:00 – 15:30 Room 4.01

Levels of argument analysis and the dimensions of polarization

Fabrizio Macagno

The catchy label of “fake news” will be shown to involve complex argumentative strategies, which can be captured and analyzed both quantitatively and qualitatively by combining the instruments developed in argumentation theory (argumentation schemes and fallacies) and transforming them into a toolbox for discourse analysis. This approach to argumentative discourse analysis will be illustrated through the analysis of a corpus of three populist leaders’ messages, focusing on the tactics used for manipulating the “common ground” between the interlocutors and the emotional strategies relied upon for arguing without providing reasons. The “argumentation profiles” of the speakers will be outlined by presenting the frequency of each argumentative strategy and manipulation used.

Thursday, September 25 15:30 – 16:00 Room 4.01

Thematic panels

Implicit contradictory arguments as a form of manipulation in digital polarized communication: an experimental case study

Edoardo Lombardi Vallauri

A contradictory text by an Italian journalist has been submitted to experimental subjects in two versions, where contradictory contents are encoded implicitly or explicitly. Contradictions are noticed twice as often when they arise between explicit statements compared to when they involve content requiring inference. This suggests that implicitness can be used to manipulate an audience by more effectively concealing the inconsistency of one's arguments. Age and education differences among participants correlate significantly with the detection of contradictions and the manipulative capacity of implicitness. Notably, overall approval of the text remains unchanged even when participants notice the contradiction.

Thursday, September 25 16:00 – 16:30 Room 4.01

Abductive Insights into Affective Polarization Beyond Party Lines: Building Bridges between Ethos and Pathos and Group boundaries

Virginie Van Ingelgom

Affective polarization extends beyond partisan divides, shaping conflict between broader socio-political groups. This study builds on research on political affective polarization and digital rhetoric to examine how polarization manifests in both partisan and non-partisan contexts, online and offline. Building on qualitative analyses of focus group data from Belgium (2019–2021) and computational analysis of rhetorical strategies in online debates (Polaris), we adopt an abductive approach to theory building, exploring how the interplay between political group boundaries and appeals to ethos and pathos shapes affective polarization. In partisan environments, we expect the public to fragment into distinct groups, resulting in more imbalanced ethotic supports – ingroup, and attacks – outgroup, and a dominance of negative emotional appeals. Conversely, in non-partisan contexts, a collective opposition is likely to emerge without support for the ingroup, leading to a higher overall frequency of ethotic attacks while maintaining a more balanced affective landscape. Finally, a typical case of strong partisan polarization, such as U.S. elections, is expected to exhibit a pronounced asymmetry in pathos appeals, with negative rhetoric significantly outweighing positive engagement.

Thursday, September 25 16:30 – 17:00 Room 4.01

Panel 2: Thursday, Sept. 25 14:30 – 17:00 Room 4.02

Emotion in Argumentation

Barbara Konat and Cristian Manuel Santibañez Yañez

Emotions, once peripheral in argumentation theory, now attract growing attention, especially with everyday and social media argumentation. Scholars like Walton, Plantin, Tindale, and Gilbert laid groundwork, while recent research develops theoretical and practical aspects. This panel presents a variety of philosophical, pragmatic, and linguistic approaches, covering models such as Pragma-Dialectics, Argumentum Model of Topics, and others. Corpora include Reddit, Instagram, Dutch political discourse, and U.S. debates. The panel appeals to those studying argumentation in social media, populism, manipulation, fake news, and children's speech, offering an international and intercultural perspective on emotions in argumentation.

Panel 2 presentations:

Trust and confidence in finance: the discourse of French youtubers

Sara Cigada

This paper analyzes emotional verbal strategies in French-language financial discourse on YouTube. Drawing on a corpus of institutional and non-professional videos, we examine emotional terms (C. Plantin) and semiotic tools (R. Micheli) to compare how emotions are mobilized. While both groups acknowledge the role of emotions in financial decision-making, their approaches differ: institutional videos invoke fear to promote caution and distrust, whereas young YouTubers foster trust and self-confidence as the result of knowledge. As both aim to educate, this contrast raises important questions about the relative effectiveness of institutional versus non-professional communication strategies in financial discourse.

Thursday, Sept. 25 14:30 – 15:00 Room 4.02

Thematic panels

A Pragmatic Approach to Emotional Appeals in Argumentation

Barbara Konat

This paper, part of the “Emotion in Argumentation” panel, extends the interactional model of pathos by integrating cognitive pragmatics and affective science. Traditional models focus on single-turn emotional appeals, but argumentation unfolds over multiple turns where logos, ethos, and pathos interact. The study explores how emotion guides attention and interpretation in argumentative exchanges. It proposes an expanded model of pathos, focusing on the pragmatic aspects of persuasion. By applying this perspective to analyses of social media interactions, this approach aims to understand how emotional appeals and phatic interactions shape real-world argumentation and persuasion.

Thursday, Sept. 25 15:00 – 15:30 Room 4.02

Emotion as a discursive resource in Dutch election debates

Menno Reijven

In this study, we investigate how emotion is discursively constructed to accomplish argumentative and rhetorical goals in Dutch election debates. Being an argumentative strategy, politicians need to coherently bring together a number of emotions in the debate, which are in line with concrete observations. After all, feeling a certain way is only reasonable if it is induced by a particular event. Consequently, each emotion produced and used in argumentation, is fully embedded in the argumentative structure. The results of this study enable better understanding the role a discursive portrayal of emotion plays in argumentation and constitutes an argumentative strategy.

Thursday, Sept. 25 15:30 – 16:00 Room 4.02

Thematic panels

On Hamblin's account of emotion: commitments, dialectics and argumentative reconstruction.

Cristián Santibáñez

In this presentation, I will reflect on Hamblin's analytical proposal regarding emotion in terms of what kind of argumentative commitments speakers and listeners acquire once an emotional communication is expressed. By analyzing the kinds of commitments that interlocutors acquire in this context, the dialectical profiles of this kind of dialogue should be reconsidered, which is the second aim of this presentation. Finally, I will present a way to reconstruct emotive argumentative dialogues once emotive expressions have been dialectically challenged.

Thursday, Sept. 25 16:00 – 16:30 Room 4.02

#RanaPlazaNeverAgain: Reasons and emotions in digital activists' argumentation advocating for a more sustainable fashion system

Marta Trutalli, Anders Olof Larsson and Sara Greco

This paper explores the connection between emotions and argumentation in digital activists' discourse advocating for sustainable fashion. We combine a linguistic analysis of emotions with an analysis of argumentation based on the AMT model to reconstruct emotions are expressed and how they are related to argumentative inference. We examine a corpus of Instagram posts mentioning the tragic Rana Plaza accident in Bangladesh (2013); focusing on the locus from termination and setting up, used by activists as based on the inferential rule "if a situation is bad, it should be terminated", we reconstruct the emotional dynamics activated by this locus.

Thursday, Sept. 25 16:30 – 17:00 Room 4.02

Thematic panels

Panel 3: Thursday, Sept. 25 14:30 – 16:30 Room 4.04

Visual argumentation in a digital society

Leo Groarke

One hallmark of the digital society is the use of visual images to argue and persuade. This is an inevitable consequence of digital technologies that allow arguers to easily create and distribute (and modify and adjust) photographs, illustrations, film, videos, tables, graphs, PowerPoint slides, VR presentations, etc. These technological developments have provided arguers with visual tools that are used (and often abused) when one constructs an argument. This panel discusses both the theoretical and practical issues this raises in ways that respond to the argumentation literature (that argues for and against visual and multimodal arguments), and the use of visual arguing in a variety of contexts (in science, literature, politics, advertising, and art).

Panel 3 presentations:

Visual Propositions: Images in Epistemic Arguments

Leo Groarke

Informal logic assumes an epistemic view of arguments — a view it inherits from Philosophy. This has encouraged the argument that: (i) arguments consist of propositions; (ii) images are not propositional; hence (iii) there are no visual arguments. I argue that there are visual propositions and that this is the best way to explain the roles that images frequently play in epistemic contexts. I maintain that a commitment to the epistemic approach to the study of argument (and especially digital argument) is incomplete and cannot account for ordinary claims to truth, knowledge, and justification if it fails to include some similar account.

Thursday, Sept. 25 14:30 – 15:00 Room 4.04

Thematic panels

Visual Slippery Slope Arguments

Andreea Mihali

My paper is part of the thematic panel/symposium: “Visual argumentation in the digital society”. In response to continuing debates about visual and multimodal arguments, I will provide historical examples showing that many visual images have a clear argumentative structure. I will discuss Jan Steen’s 1663-1665 painting *The Effects of Intemperance* which is readily identified as an instance of the argument scheme “Slippery Slope” and argue that the suggestion that Steen’s painting does not contain an argument presented via visual means implies an unjustified double standard when we consider verbal and visual arguments.

Thursday, Sept. 25 15:00 – 15:30 Room 4.04

Problematizing the Assumptions of Visual Argument Denialism

Ian Dove

We argue that visual argument denialism is rooted in a collection of mistaken and indefensible assumptions about visuals and arguments: about their nature, how they mean, and how they may be interpreted. Critical scrutiny of these assumptions reveals that denialists are not being PC — they are not being parity charitable. When judging whether visuals are arguments, denialists: (i) demand more of visuals than they do of verbals, and (ii) grant less to visuals than they do to verbals. If denialists are PC in their judgements, we conclude, they will lack any good reason for denying that visuals can be arguments.

Thursday, Sept. 25 15:30 – 16:00 Room 4.04

Being “Parity Charitable” in Judging Visual Arguments

David Godden

Previously, we argued that visual argument denialists are not “parity charitable.” When judging whether visuals are arguments, denialists: (i) demand more of visuals than they do of verbals, and (ii) grant less to visuals than they do to verbals. Here we present a case study applying these findings. The well-known “Equality vs Equity” image is commonly understood to provide reasons for concluding that: As distributive principles for social resources, equity is more fair than equality. We show that, after dropping the denialists’ “parity uncharitable” assumptions, there remains no good reason to deny the everyday understanding of this image as argumentative.

Thursday, Sept. 25 16:00 – 16:30 Room 4.04

Panel 4: Thursday, Sept. 25 14:30 – 16:30 Room 4.05

Experimental Approaches to Argumentation

Jennifer Schumann and Steve Oswald

This panel provides an overview of ongoing research using experimental methods in argumentation. It explores the possibilities and limits of various methodologies in studying argumentative practices. Contributions cover diverse topics, including argumentative normativity, fallacy detection, and rhetorical effectiveness, employing methods such as evaluation tasks and self-paced reading experiments. Each approach demonstrates how experimental techniques enhance understanding of argument perception, processing, and effectiveness. Taken together, the presentations offer insights into reasoning, discourse processing, and rhetorical impact, while highlighting the strengths and limitations of experimental approaches in argumentation research, fostering a more nuanced understanding of how arguments function.

Panel 4 presentations:

Tracking the Experimental Turn in Argumentation: Progress, Challenges and New Horizons

Steve Oswald and Jennifer Schumann

We outline key developments in the use of experimental methods to study argumentation, from early pragma-dialectical work to recent advances. The paper highlights core questions experimental methods can and cannot address, their relationship to theoretical approaches, and the challenges they pose. By mapping this trajectory, we provide a foundation for discussing future directions in experimental argumentation research. This introduction sets the stage for the panel's contributions, offering the conceptual grounding needed to critically engage with the role and potential of experimental approaches in the study of argumentation.

Thursday, September 25 14:30 – 15:00 Room 4.05

Thematic panels

Do metaphors enhance linguistic intimacy in ad populum arguments?

Francesca Ervas and Oriana Mosca

Metaphor has been recognized as a cognitive mechanism that shapes how people evaluate arguments. This influence largely stems from its framing effect, which carries an emotional component. However, the role of metaphor extends beyond its cognitive function or aesthetic appeal. Cohen (1978) argued that its use also serves to establish linguistic intimacy. Based on Cohen's notion of linguistic intimacy (Cohen 1978), we propose that metaphor functions as a "concealed invitation" from the speaker to the listener. We hypothesized that metaphors, compared to literal expressions, would more effectively influence arguments in which the evaluator infers the truth of a conclusion based on a feeling of community belonging. This is especially relevant in ad populum arguments, where agreement with the conclusion may stem from a shared belief within a group. In such cases, metaphor may enhance the evaluator's perception of being part of that group, making them more likely to accept the argument. Importantly, ad populum arguments are not necessarily fallacious. In many cases, people have valid reasons for believing a conclusion, and its persuasiveness can depend on how it is framed. Given this, our study investigates the extent to which emotive metaphors - whether conventional or novel - embedded within ad populum arguments influence participants' acceptance of conclusions. By examining this relationship, we aim to provide empirical insight into how metaphor shapes argument evaluation and community-based reasoning.

Thursday, September 25 15:00 – 15:30 Room 4.05

Does argument quality matter for claim acceptance depending on people's prior belief in the claim?

Jos Hornikx and Jean Wagemans

Empirical studies, mainly in psychology, have shown people to subjectively assess argument quality depending on whether they (dis)believe the claim: if the claim is accepted, so is the argument – regardless of its quality. In the current experiment, we examined the impact of argument quality in a more nuanced way. Instead of presenting acceptable or unacceptable claims, we first had participants (N = 70) evaluate 12 different claims, followed by the same claims supported once by a strong and once by a weak argument. Results showed that strong arguments were consistently more persuasive than weak arguments irrespective of prior claim acceptance.

Thursday, September 25 15:30 – 16:00 Room 4.05

Thematic panels

Does rephrasing in argumentation facilitate processing and comprehension? A self-paced reading task.

Jennifer Schumann and Daniel de Oliveira Fernandes

While rephrasing can enhance argument persuasiveness, it is unclear whether this effect stems from easier processing and improved comprehension or from other factors. To investigate, we conducted a self-paced reading task, comparing rephrased and repeated sentences containing abstract terms. Results showed no significant differences in participants' evaluations of the statement's correctness, suggesting that both rephrased and repeated terms similarly support comprehension. However, reading times for critical segments differed significantly, indicating a variation in processing effort. These findings suggest that while comprehension remains stable across conditions, rephrased and repeated formulations differ in how cognitively demanding they are to process.

Thursday, September 25 16:00 – 16:30 Room 4.05

Panel 5: Thursday, Sept. 25 14:30 – 16:30 Room 3.12

Multimodal Argumentation and Critique

Dimitris Serafis and Jan Albert Van Laar

Argumentation in the digital age has clearly become less verbal and more multimodal in nature. The conceptual, analytical and evaluative tools for understanding and addressing the multimodal engagement with social and political controversies have not kept pace with the rapid pace of technological developments, including in non-verbal forms of communication. This panel brings together studies on multimodal argumentation on issues of immediate social importance. The contributions focus on the distinction between micro- and macro-level phenomena and on ways to foster critique and raise awareness of potentially dangerous ideological beliefs, values and their implications.

Panel 5 presentations:

Interpreting Memes: Modes, Frames, and Arguments

Aleksandra Majdzińska-Koczorowicz and Martin Hinton

We demonstrate how a combined argumentative and rhetorical analysis, informed by cognitive linguistics, can provide a thorough interpretation of the persuasive content of multimodal internet memes. We consider memes employing two modes of expression as integral contributions to the arguments they make: linguistic content and images. We show how it is only a combined analysis which can properly extrapolate the persuasive potential of the materials studied and argue that within this integrated framework certain elements of cognitive linguistics theory fit well with the tools of argumentation theory and allow for a better understanding of how memes work.

Thursday, September 25 14:30 – 15:00 Room 3.12

Visual argumentative inferences and soft hate speech online

Marta Marcora, Janina Wildfeuer and Dimitris Serafis

This study aims to advance research on how soft hate speech is argumentatively rationalized and normalized as a multimodal phenomenon (Serafis, 2022; Serafis & Wildfeuer, forthcoming). It presents a multi-level stand-off annotation scheme designed to identify multimodal patterns in headlines and press photos that sustain the visual-verbal construction of soft hate speech within online news. Aligning with the recent shift towards empirical multimodal argumentation and large-scale corpus analysis (Bateman et al., 2017; Pflaeging et al., 2021), the scheme is theoretically grounded in multimodal research (van Leeuwen, 2008; Machin & Mayr, 2012) and has been tested in a pilot of Italian online news articles from the perceived peak of the so-called “refugee crisis” (2015-2017).

Thursday, September 25 15:00 – 15:30 Room 3.12

The argumentative value of multimodal activism

Lotte van Poppel and Jan Albert Van Laar

One aspect of protests is that they communicate arguments by multimodal means. At the same time, protests also convey information that, while not communicating a genuine argument, is helpful to the resolution of the disagreement at hand, as well as information that, while devoid of any argumentative value, may otherwise influence the direction of a public controversy. In this presentation, we present a conceptual framework for identifying arguments and related contributions in multimodal discourse. Our focus is on how activists create meaning using a variety of semiotic devices. Our aim is to explore the ways in which protests can either facilitate or hinder high-quality argumentation.

Thursday, September 25 15:30 – 16:00 Room 3.12

Procedural vs. conceptual meaning in multimodal argumentation

Steve Oswald and Ramy Younis

This paper extends the study of multimodal argumentation by applying relevance theory's distinction between conceptual and procedural meaning to visual communication. Conceptual meaning refers to referential content, while procedural meaning guides interpretation. The authors argue that visual elements in multimodal arguments often serve a procedural role, helping audiences infer argumentative schemes such as appeals to fear or analogies. Through examples from public controversies, the paper explores how visuals constrain interpretation, influence persuasiveness, and contribute to argumentative structure. It concludes by examining whether visuals can convey conceptual meaning and the implications for evaluating multimodal arguments.

Thursday, September 25 16:00 – 16:30 Room 3.12

Posters: Poster session & coffee break 17:00 – 18:15 ITC hall

POSTERS

Artificial Arguers: The Role of Generative AI in Debate and Argumentation

Bhrunali Gokhe

As a UX designer working at the intersection of emerging tech and human behaviour, I've seen how generative AI is reshaping the dynamics of interaction, trust, and persuasion. In this talk—"Artificial Arguers: The Role of Generative AI in Debate and Argumentation"—I explore what happens when AI systems are not just tools we use, but agents that argue back. Focusing on IBM's Project Debater as a central case study, I unpack what it means to design an artificial entity capable of structured argument. How do you craft an experience where the AI doesn't just respond, but actively persuades? What does user experience look like when the user is not just listening, but being intellectually challenged by a machine? This session takes a UX-informed look at how generative AI redefines credibility, conversational design, and rhetorical interaction. Rather than a broad survey of AI's pros and cons, I dive into how argumentation—traditionally rooted in human values and emotional nuance—is being re-encoded into data-driven systems that lack belief, but not conviction.

Argumentation as an alternative to conflict escalation: An application to young people's transition to the professional world

Sara Greco, Annamaria Astrologo, Stefano Tardini,
Chiara Jermini-Martinez Soria, Branislava Trifkovic and Anda Andrijanic

Young people's transition to the professional world is a delicate phase, which might create tension and interpersonal conflicts. This poster, based on a current project funded by SNSF Agora (<https://spazididialogo.ch>), presents the potential of introducing argumentation concepts to young people in professional schools to help conflict prevention. We present our theoretical starting points regarding argumentation and the main goals of the project. By this doing, we discuss how argumentation studies can contribute to the reduction of conflict costs through the introduction of argumentation instruments to be used in dialogic interaction.

A Philosophical Perspective on Defence and Support in Computational Argumentation

Michael Mueller

Many approaches in computational argumentation rely on the notions of attack, support, and defence between arguments in order to determine which of them should be accepted. While abstract argumentation does not provide any interpretation of these notions, we can find some indication on how to understand them in structured argumentation. This paper approaches these notions from a dialectical perspective. First, the notion of accepting an argument is examined, after which the notions of critical reactions of the opponent and appropriate responses by the proponent are used to examine attack, support, and defence.

Annotation and Analysis of Argumentation Schemes in Natural Language Discourse

Ramon Ruiz-Dolz, Zlata Kikteva and John Lawrence

In this work we introduce a large-scale corpus of argumentation schemes in dialogue, along with accompanying analysis of this data. As a starting point, we use the QT30 corpus (Hautli-Janisz et al., 2022), annotated with argumentative structures according to Inference Anchoring Theory (IAT) (Budzynska et al., 2014, 2016). We identify a total of 441 arguments belonging to one of 24 argumentation schemes. The inter-annotator agreement (IAA) for the annotation process was validated on 12% of the data resulting in Cohen’s kappa of 0.39. This fair agreement reflects the inherent complexity of capturing implicit reasoning in natural language.

Disinformation in the Age of AI: New Challenges, New Strategies

Zuzana Rybaříková

I will focus on the impact that the emergence of large language models (LLMs) has had on disinformation management and the argumentative strategies associated with this phenomenon in my poster. Based on a systematic review of published papers and preprints, this paper will discuss the reduction of disinformation production costs, its amplified spread, more personalised content, as well as the fact that disinformation produced by these tools could escape detection due to differences from human-produced disinformation.

A computational linguistic exploration of linguistic features associated with the straw man fallacy in social media

Bruna Paz Schmid

This corpus study applies computational linguistic methods to provide a list of linguistic features associated with the straw man fallacy on social media in the political context to aid the future creation of a dataset. For this, the misrepresentation tweets dataset (Paz Schmid et al. 2024), which contains annotated misrepresentations found in tweets taken from the Trump Twitter Archive (Brown 2016), was analyzed manually, based on pragmatic theory. Two subsets were created: strawman and not-strawman (misrepresentations without refutational aim). Through comparison, significant differences were found between the two subsets at the levels of syntax, semantics and pragmatics.

Bibliography for Argumentation Research and Theory – A Wiki-Type Reading List Depository

Katharina Stevens and Olena Yaskorska-Shah

Argumentation theory spans many sub-fields, producing vast research that is hard to navigate, especially for newcomers. Existing tools—repositories, handbooks, or private reference collections—either overwhelm, quickly date, or remain inaccessible. We propose BART: a crowd-sourced, wiki-based bibliography network for argumentation theory. Authenticated experts will curate sub-field and discussion pages with short introductions and evolving reading lists (15–30 key texts). BART will give students and researchers accessible entry points, support instructors with ready-made course materials, and provide advanced scholars with updated overviews of interdisciplinary debates. A demo version with sample sub-fields will showcase BART’s functionality.

Can Pachamama, Artificial Intelligence, and Cheshire Cat be Legal Persons? A Speech Act Approach to Legal Recognition of Nature and AI

Jingjing Wu

The concept of legal personhood is a cornerstone of modern law, traditionally applied to natural humans, later expanded to corporations and other entities. Against the backdrop of the recent Rights of Nature (RoN) movement and the rapid development of Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies, this article proposes a novel conceptualization for understanding legal personhood through the lens of speech act theory. Responding to literature on granting legal personhood to RoN or AI (e.g., Kurki 2022, Chesterman 2020, O’Donnell & Macpherson 2019), this article contributes to the discussion by reconceptualizing the act of ‘granting’ legal personhood as a declaration in the Austinian sense.

REGULAR PAPERS

A

Integrating Modified Toulmin and Pragma-Dialectics Models in L2 Argumentative Writing: A Cross-Cultural Analysis of Persian and Norwegian Writers

Parichehr Afzali, Narjes Sheikh Asadi, Mohammad Amini Farsani

We investigate different levels of argumentation to examine Iranian and Norwegian L2 learners' argumentative writing. Our analysis draws on 40 argumentative essays from the International Corpus of Learner English (ICLEv3). At the surface level, we apply the Modified Toulmin Model (Qin & Karabacak, 2010) to examine claims, data, counterclaims, counter-data, rebuttal-claims, and rebuttal-data. For a deeper investigation, we adopt the Pragma-Dialectical approach (van Eemeren, 2018) to analyze argumentative patterns (van Eemeren, 2016), including types of standpoints, argument schemes, argument structures, and differences of opinion. The results showed multiple statistically significant differences, revealing nuanced variations in argumentative performance between the groups.

Friday 26 September 15:00 - 15:30 Room 4.05

Meta-arguments for argumentative escalation and de-escalation

Scott Aikin, John Casey

Sometimes when we argue, it gets heated. Important issues are on the line, others are watching, and our egos can be impacted by how things go. Argumentation, given the friction of reason, is an easy site for escalation. And it can be a site for reasons to de-escalate. The reasons bearing on these options vary in three separate forms of address (first-, second-, and third-person), and reasons for escalation and de-escalation take can have optimistic and pessimistic forms. What emerges is a basic taxonomy of meta-arguments for escalation and de-escalation.

Wednesday 24 September 11:00 – 11:30 Room 4.01

Arguments for (un)informed consent in cookie banners

Corina Andone

‘We use cookies’ is a standard website notice which obliges data collectors to inform data subjects of the risks and benefits of accepting/refusing cookies. Based on their legal, communicative and design features, this presentation demonstrates that the provided information functions as argumentation to satisfy the legal objective to achieve informed consent. It shows how the argumentation is less instrumental towards informed consent, but rather aimed at persuading data subjects to choose the highest level of cookies de facto desired by the data controllers, or at least to reassure them of the proper protection and storage of their data.

Thursday 25 September 11:30 – 12:00 Room 4.07

Argumentative Attitude: A Psychological Perspective in Dialogue with Philosophy

Mercedes Beatriz Arce Rodriguez

This paper examines argumentative attitude by integrating insights from Social Psychology and Philosophy. Following Moscovici's notion of social representations, attitudes are understood as cognitive, affective, and conative dimensions that influence reasoning, identity, and behavior. Building on Allport, Katz, Petty and Cacioppo, attitudes are analyzed through their functions—knowledge, instrumental, ego-defensive, value-expressive, and social adaptation—and their relevance for argumentation. From the perspective of Argumentation Theory (van Eemeren, Grootendorst, Henkemans), attitudes intersect with persuasion and rational discourse. Cognitive biases such as the False Consensus Effect (Miller, Prentice), the Dunning-Kruger Effect (Dunning, Kruger), and Pluralistic Ignorance (Allport, Katz) reveal distortions in argumentative processes.

Wednesday 24 September 16:00 – 16:30 Room 3.12

Regular papers

Arguing on behalf of others in public deliberation

Álvaro Domínguez Armas

Equal participation is vital for good deliberation. However, parties to deliberation are sometimes absent, or their voices are not equally heard. To ensure the participation of such agents, other participants may produce and exchange reasons on their behalf. In this paper, I investigate the dynamics and argumentative commitments involved in representing absent participants in informal argumentative exchanges. I distinguish three types of representation. First, I describe how representatives can ‘argue as’ a member of the represented group, committing themselves to sharing the same characteristics as the represented. Second, I describe how representatives can ‘stand for’ the represented, committing themselves to seeking a resolution to the disagreement following the interests of the represented. Finally, I examine the argumentative commitments that representatives impose on the represented when they ‘argue on their behalf’.

Wednesday September 24 11:30 – 12:00 Room 3.01

Revealing Argumentative Patterns: Underlying the Genre-Specific Moves in Research Articles

Narjes Sheikh Asadi

This study explores how argumentation unfolds within the rhetorical moves of research article introductions. By integrating Swales’ CaRS model with Pragma-Dialectics and the Argument Model of Topic, it examines how the generic standpoints of each move are supported by prototypical loci. Through the reconstruction of argument structures and visualization using OVA+, specific rhetorical moves consistently activate stereotypical loci (e.g., authority in Move 1), highlighting predictable patterns aligned with communicative purposes. This methodological integration, which reframes Swales’ model through an argumentative lens, offers a novel framework for genre analysis and provides pedagogical insights by helping novice academic writers craft more persuasive introductions aligned with disciplinary norms.

Friday September 26 11:30 – 12:00 Room 4.05

Regular papers

In Dialogue with Expertise: Epistemic Asymmetry and the Appeal to Expert Opinion

Piero Avitabile

Existing normative frameworks in argumentation theory prove inadequate in epistemically asymmetrical settings, such as dialogues between experts and laypeople. Designed for exchanges among peers, these models either impose unrealistic demands on the layperson or insufficient ones on the expert. I examine the dynamics of such interactions, with particular attention to the role of appeals to expert opinion. I address the tension between lay epistemic autonomy and dependence, alongside the expert's trustworthiness. By analyzing moves such as a layperson citing a second expert or an expert invoking their own authority, the talk aims at identifying better norms for governing these exchanges.

Wednesday 24 September 17:45 – 18:15 Room 4.05

B

Relegating our Thinking to Chatbots? Challenges to Critical Thinking Education from Generative AI

Sharon Bailin, Mark Battersby

The focus of this paper is the challenge posed by generative AI to the enterprise of critical thinking education. Given how powerful the technology has become in performing tasks that call for critical thinking, how can we justify requiring students to learn to think critically? What are the pitfalls and risks of the reliance on such technology to do our critical thinking? And given the goals of critical thinking education, how can we address the challenges AI presents to education for critical thinking?

Wednesday 24 September 17:15 – 17:45 Room 4.01

Regular papers

Art as Argument

Rose Marie Barrientos Galindo

While visual argumentation theory recognizes the persuasive power of images, it often overlooks the argumentative potential of art forms that emerged in the second half of the twentieth century. Some such artworks function as complex communicative acts with persuasive intent. Through selected cases (e.g., Joseph Beuys and Guerrilla Girls), this paper examines strategies that position the artist as arguer, art as argument, and artistic experience as an argumentative event. This reconceptualization contributes to both argumentation theory and art history studies, calling for further research on art's multimodal argumentative mechanisms and methods for their evaluation.

Wednesday 24 September 15:30 – 16:00 Room 4.07

Logic Puzzles and AI Reasoning: Are Large Language Models Merely Pattern-Matching Machines Disguised as Reasoners?

Henrike Beyer, Chris Reed

Large Language Models (LLMs) are often described as reasoners, yet their apparent fluency frequently masks lexical retrieval rather than abstraction. Drawing on results from logic puzzles, we analyse reasoning traces when puzzles are presented in both familiar and lexically obfuscated forms. Once deprived of familiar cues, models fail to sustain inference chains and collapse into incoherence and confusion. Their outputs mimic reasoning on a lexical level, but combine it with trivialities, or empty backtracking. These patterns reveal LLMs as simulators of reasoning rather than arguers, raising serious doubts about their capacity to engage in genuine justificatory discourse.

Thursday 25 September 12:30 – 13:00 Room 3.12

The Path of a Charitable Opponent: The Dilemmas of Intellectual Tolerance

Petar Bodlović

This presentation examines the conversational applications of the Principle of Charity (POC). I argue that POC can help navigate uncertainties arising from disagreement and concerning the epistemic status of an utterance. Furthermore, I challenge the common view that POC is inherently linked to specific conversational responses. On the one hand, POC is dialectically underdetermined: the same response can be either charitable or non-charitable, depending on how the opponent interprets the proponent's contribution. On the other hand, opponents can express POC in multiple ways—not only through charitable criticisms but also through concessions and the assumption of the burden of proof.

Wednesday 24 September 12:00 – 12:30 Room 3.12

Scalability of Ethotic Arguments in the Digital Rhetoric

Katarzyna Budzynska, Marcin Koszowy

This talk explores how appeals to ethos - the character of speakers or social media users - are reshaped in digital communication. While classical rhetoric centred ethos on a single orator, today's online environments disperse it across multiple "ethotic centres" within dynamic, crowd-like networks. We show how this shift amplifies misbehaviours such as polarisation and hate speech, raising the challenge of how to study ethos at scale. To address this, we present Rhetoric Analytics, an AI-based method for detecting statistical patterns of ethotic strategies in large datasets, and discuss what this reveals about the interplay of ethos, logos, pathos, and values in digital society.

Wednesday 24 September 12:30 – 13:00 Room 3.07

Regular papers

Deepfakes Algorithms, Humor, and the Challenges of Argumentation in the Digital Age

Ron Von Burg, Marcus Paroske

Advances in “deepfake” technology are often framed as damaging informed democratic deliberations. Though much attention focuses on technical solutions for identifying deepfakes, this essay explores deepfakes as a mechanism to better understand the nature and limits of political satirical arguments in the digital age. Drawing from existing work on satire and rhetorical and argumentative engagements with deepfake algorithms, we develop an approach to critically evaluate the harms and merits of deepfakes that is less reliant on recognizing their presence and more toward assessing the contextual and argumentative elements that mark the difference between useful and injurious deception.

Thursday 25 September 9:30 – 10:00 Room 4.01

C

Enabling and Disabling Conditions as Higher-Order Defeat: A Holistic Evaluation of Arguments

Joannes Campell, Michael Mueller

This paper examines the question of when an argument provides a relevant reason for its conclusion from the perspective of particularism and holism of reasons. We analyse how some considerations (called “conditions”) determine the status of reasons by enabling or disabling them. This analysis results in a two-stage process of testing argument relevance based on the following observation: An argument can fail to be relevant because the premises fail to be enabled as a reason for the conclusion or because the premises are disabled by the constellation of the specific circumstances in which the argument is put forth.

Wednesday 24 September 17:15 – 17:45 Room 3.12

Regular papers

Participatory Sense-Making in Disagreements: Enriching Multi-Modal Theory of Argumentation with the Enactive Approach to Social Understanding

Laura Candiotta, Serhij Kiš

We propose a novel way to overcome deep disagreements. Our proposal stands on multi-modal argumentation but goes beyond it by drawing on enactive approach to social understanding, particularly on participatory sense-making (PSM). On our view, multi-modal argumentation is unable to overcome deep disagreements because it requires a common ground between the interlocuters which is lacking in such disagreements. We therefore propose that such shared ground must be co-created. We use PSM to explain how this happens. Finally, we test our proposal on the 2024 film *We Live in Time*, which depicts a couple overcoming a deep disagreement about procreation.

Wednesday 24 September 15:00 – 15:30 Room 4.07

Discursive Mirages: Mimicking Public Arguments Across Discursive Spaces

Martha Carr

Deliberative democracy depends on frank engagement between publics toward issues of common concern. This paper identifies a rhetorical strategy endemic to digital arguments, but used across discursive spaces, which mirrors the form and structure of deliberative discourse even as its outcomes impoverish it. Virtual town hall meetings, digital slacktivism, and viral video trends like the “Change My Mind” debates cosplay deliberative engagement even as they function anti-discursively. These deliberative shortcuts take a more consequential turn when they supplant legal argument. We explore how the U.S. Supreme Court violates its deliberative duties by adopting discursive miraging in emergency stay rulings.

Wednesday 24 September 12:30 – 13:00 Room 4.04

Regular papers

Fallacies without Deceit

John Casey, Scott Aikin

On a standard definition, to qualify as a fallacy something must be (1) an argument that is (2) invalid or otherwise logically bad, but (3) which appears to be good to its user or some target audience. While this conception of fallacy may work fine for first-order arguments, we aim to show that it fails in the second order, in meta-argument. We will discuss cases of fallacies that aren't arguments, fallacious arguments that are not logically bad, and cases of fallacies that are not meant to appear good or fool anybody.

Friday September 26 11:00 – 11:30 Room 4.07

Debating Minds: Can LLM-based Multi-Agent Debates Teach Us to Argue?

Jaroslav A. Chudziak, Yaroslav Harbar

Argumentation theory guides reasoning and persuasion. We simulate Oxford-style debates with LLM-based multi-agent systems—proposition, opposition, and audience—to explore whether AI can perform ethos, pathos, and logos. Agents adapt their tactics to opponent moves and audience profiles through audience modeling and real-time feedback. Preliminary results indicate coherent, context-responsive arguments and measurable shifts in simulated audience opinion. Still, the work surfaces philosophical and ethical concerns: Can AI grasp nuanced, situated meaning, and how does synthetic debate affect authenticity and human communicative practice? We discuss methodology, results, and open issues toward using AI to study—and maybe improve—human argumentation.

Wednesday September 24 12:00 – 12:30 Room 3.01

Regular papers

A polyphonic framework for capturing counterargument and concession patterns in large online polylogues

Claudia Coppola, Andrea Rocci

This paper presents a polyphonic framework aimed at capturing counterargument and concession patterns in polylogue, and exemplifies how this framework is sensitive to discursive and rhetorical strategies that emerge in large online discussions and that are relevant for their reconstruction and evaluation as arguments. In a small collection of cases from social media discussions about the social impact of AI, we map polyphonic roles onto observable discourse utterances, identifiable participants and documentable contexts, looking into logico-inferential categories (e.g. undercutter, rebuttal) alongside the discursive phenomena (e.g. prolepsis, anaphoric encapsulation) anchoring the roles to an ongoing and often blurry polylogue.

Friday September 26 12:30 – 13:00 Room 3.01

Material arguments: how can objects convey?

Hédi Virág Csordás, Alexandra Karakas

In our presentation, we argue that even though the scope of multimodal argumentation seems to be wide enough for covering the multitude of argumentative modes, it is still limited in scope. To support this claim, we focus on a particular case of argumentation in scientific context, where the role of visibility is more and more under scrutiny lately. In addition to images, objects can also be used to express arguments that serve as decisive evidence for experiments, discoveries, viewpoints, and innovations. The sheer amount of physical instruments are designed to convey scientific knowledge about the world; thus, they have a crucial epistemic role in scientific inquiry. Material arguments can play a key component role in reconstruction, i.e. the function or disfunction of the object determines the outcome of a research. While both verbal and visual content play an important role in science, we claim that the domain of multimodal visual argumentation should be extended to accommodate reasoning contained in material artefacts. We coined the term material argument for describing scientific arguments mainly expressed with the design, use, and distribution of instruments. In our research, we develop and use the concept of material argumentation, and integrate it within the domain of informal logic within the framework of visual argumentation.

Thursday September 25 9:00 – 9:30 Room 3.01

Some would argue that prefaces are pivotal for robust questioning, but LLMs don't understand their role: do you agree? The role of prefaces in strategic Q&A.

Giulia D'Agostino

We present a study of a category of non-interrogative propositions in question turns, namely statements called prefaces. Prefaces are a class of assertive speech acts that accompany and introduce questions with various contextual purposes such as arguing for the legitimacy of the interrogative speech act. This paper provides a comprehensive overview of the use of prefaces in context. The current contribution presents advancements in qualitative and quantitative research for the class of prefaces in critical dialogues. We propose a data-validated typology of prefaces, we show the argumentative role of prefaces in a dialogue, and we evaluate LLMs' ability to classify and generate them.

Thursday September 25 9:00 – 9:30 Room 4.04

Degrees of Rational Persuasion

Davide Dalla Rosa, Filippo Mancini

This paper presents a graded account of the rationality of argumentative persuasion, adopting an expanded version of the pragma-dialectical approach to argumentation. Using the distinction between actual and ideal rational persuasion based on available evidence, the paper argues that the degree of actual rational persuasion of the listener can be estimated as either weak or strong. Additionally, epistemic norms for accepting the conclusion of an argument are introduced to approximate actual rational persuasion to ideal rational persuasion.

Wednesday September 24 14:30 – 15:00 Room 3.12

Regular papers

"Blood like wine: it rages in youth, it ripens with age" - an empirical study of the age effect on interpersonal arguing in Poland

Kamila Dębowska-Kozłowska, Dale Hample

This project is an empirical investigation into the effects of age on interpersonal arguing in Poland. We compare two Polish subsamples. One is college-age people and the other is a group of seniors, aged 60 years and older. We used the instruments that are in common use in a series of studies on argument predispositions across the globe (e.g., Santibáñez & Hample, 2021). So far we have collected around 175 responses from seniors and 175 more from students. We found age contrasts in 15 of 20 comparisons, a rate of 75%. The results revealed that seniors were less confrontational but argued more with a boss and were more status oriented. We explain likely causes of the results.

Wednesday September 24 17:45 – 18:15 Room 4.02

Two wrongs don't make it right: Fixed expressions as evaluative indicators in English, French, Italian, and Spanish

Marianne Doury, Alfonso Hernandez

Research on argumentative indicators examines lexical items and expressions that highlight different aspects of argumentative phenomena. For example, 'therefore' and 'because' respectively indicate standpoints and arguments. Other expressions help identify the confrontation stage, argument schemes, and argumentation structures. However, little is known about indicators related to argument evaluation. This paper investigates fixed expressions as indicators of arguers' evaluations in English, French, Italian, and Spanish. For instance, 'the pot calling the kettle black' has equivalents in all four languages and, in each case, it serves to articulate a *tu quoque*, reflecting the arguers' perception of reasonableness in the discussion.

Friday September 26 12:00 – 12:30 Room 3.01

Regular papers

Inference to the Best Legal Explanation?

Luís Duarte D'Almeida

Judges sometimes claim to inferentially 'induce' general principles from strings of precedents. What is the nature of this move? One recent view is that it is a legal analogue of inference to the best legal explanation ('IBE'). I argue against this view. I suggest there is no satisfactory way to characterise the relevant 'explanandum', the 'explanans', or the relevant 'explanatory' link; and conclude that there is no workable way of articulating a scheme for the putative legal analogue of IBE. Courts that claim to deploy it are putting forward novel principles they deem justified, not deriving them from pre-existing law.

Friday September 26 11:00 – 11:30 Room 4.01

E

Social Media Argumentation: A (not-so) New Macro-Context and its Argumentative Affordances

Dorottya Egres

The research formulates an addition to the theoretical framework of conventionalized communicative practices from pragma-dialectics by systematically analyzing social media as a new domain with sharing as its dominant genre. Public argumentation on social media platforms as one of the main, predominantly argumentative activity types is presented by exploring its essential features: its polylogical, multimodal and fragmented nature as well as the argumentative means and criticism. This research also conceptualizes argumentative affordances – based on the widely known concept of technological affordances – serving as institutional preconditions that define the domain and have a bearing on the way argumentation is regimented: the length of posts or comments, the possibility of using hyperlinks, quoting and linking moves, tagging, the types of reactions, the ordering of comments (e.g., from most relevant or controversial), as well as the presence of institutional or volunteering moderators.

Wednesday September 24 11:00 – 11:30 Room 4.07

Regular papers

The effective interplay of rhetorical argumentation and textuality in the climate crisis discourse: an analysis of opinion articles in Italian

Daria Evangelista

The paper has the primary, theoretical aim of defining key analytical categories at the intersection of rhetoric (Prandi 2023), argumentation theory (Perelman/Tyteca 2013), and text linguistics (Ferrari 2024) that interact in constructing persuasive strategies within online newspaper articles in Italian on the climate crisis. Using a 50,000-token manually compiled corpus with articles from 12 newspapers, the study adopts a mixed corpus-based/corpus-driven methodology, by cross-labelling key traits from the three disciplines and then observing and categorising their interaction patterns. The paper presents partial results from a Swiss National Science Foundation postdoctoral project.

Friday September 26 11:00 – 11:30 Room 4.05

F

Constructionism and Argumentation in the Digital Age: Enhancing Discourse Through Artifact-Driven Learning

Francesca Fiore, David M. Zikovitz, Alberto Montresor

This paper explores how constructionist pedagogy—where learners build and share meaningful artifacts—can enrich argumentation practices in education. Drawing on empirical data from FabLabs and schools in Northern Italy, we reinterpret classroom activities through the lens of argumentation theory, showing how design, critique, and revision of artifacts foster justification, rebuttal, and collaborative knowledge-building. We argue that constructionist environments support a material, embodied form of reasoning—“artifact-driven argumentation”—that complements dialogic models and promotes inclusive participation. By bridging constructionism and argumentation theory, we propose new pedagogical strategies for cultivating critical discourse in digitally mediated, diverse learning contexts.

Wednesday September 24 12:30 – 13:00 Room 3.01

Regular papers

INTERCULTURAL ARGUMENTATION: A multidimensional approach to enhance the criteria for argument analysis, in the context of the interaction of plural reasons.

Vanessa Franco-Ramírez

In The Digital Society the interaction between plurality of reasons has increased. Pluralism refers to cultural differences regarding ethnic diversity, among other criteria. Which raises the question: how can we address scenarios where differences of opinion arise within a politically endorsed pluralism? Through this presentation, I will report on the theoretical progress that theory of argumentation has made regarding intercultural argumentation; I will conduct a multidimensional analysis of arguments and I will explain the foundations of my proposal, a multidimensional perspective, where rhetoric, logic and dialectics are essential for providing reasonable analytical tools for evaluators who are tasked with resolving intercultural conflicts.

Friday, September 26 15:30 – 16:00 Room 4.05

G

Ars Inveniendi 2.0: Can AI Revolutionize the Topics?

Jonas Gabrielsen, Nicolaas T.O. Mouton

In this paper, we explore the potential of combining artificial intelligence with the classical rhetorical method of argument invention. We outline the strengths of the Topics and then identify a core limitation: the system's tendency to rely on generic topoi when analyzing unique or context-specific cases. Building on this analysis, we examine the extent to which large language models, such as ChatGPT, can help address this limitation. Based on an analysis of selected examples, we argue that ChatGPT does indeed generate more context-specific arguments, although the Topics remain relevant in the prompting.

Wednesday September 24 11:00 – 11:30 Room 4.05

Regular papers

Countering Fallacies with LLMs: A System for Identifying and Rebutting Ad Hominem Arguments

Ewelina Gajewska

While rhetorical ethos is crucial in persuasive argumentation, its manipulation through ad hominem attacks can undermine rational debate, reinforce biases, and contribute to misinformation. Unfortunately, existing computational tools for ad hominem detection from natural language tend to focus on argument classification, lacking mechanisms for counterargument generation. To this end, we develop a multi-LLM-based system for both detecting and countering ad hominem arguments to boost classification accuracy and, more importantly, to assist users in designing rebuttal strategies that are effective and contextually relevant, thereby restoring the speaker's ethos in contentious discourse environments such as politics.

Friday September 26 12:00 – 12:30 Room 3.12

Argumentative Interruptions in Dutch Parliamentary General Debates

Bart Garssen, Menno Reijven

Argumentative Interruptions in Dutch Parliamentary General Debates Parliaments in democracies around the world engage in a variety of debate types. Here, we investigate argumentation in Dutch General Political Debates (Algemene Politieke Beschouwingen), where political parties position themselves in the complex Dutch political landscape: with so many parties, each party wants to position themselves as the most reasonable one. A key discursive resource are interruptions to the argumentation of an opponent. We first characterize the activity type. Then, we investigate the argumentative structure of the turn each leader is allocated, the types of critical interruptions which are being produced, and how these criticisms are being resolved.

Wednesday September 24 17:45 – 18:15 Room 4.07

Regular papers

Aligning the extended theory of pragma-dialectics with political theory

Ingeborg van der Geest, Frank Goossens

This paper explores how the extended theory of pragma-dialectics, particularly the concept of strategic maneuvering, can be aligned with political theory. While earlier work linked the standard pragma-dialectical model to deliberative democracy, this study compares the extended framework with agonism, which challenges Habermas's 'ideal speech situation'. Using European Parliament debates on the Rule of Law, we show that the aim of strategic maneuvering – to reconcile effectiveness and reasonableness – links principles of deliberative and agonistic democracy, yet does not fit squarely within either paradigm. The paper argues for integrating these approaches to strengthen the connection between argumentation theory and political theory.

Thursday September 25 9:00 – 9:30 Room 3.07

AI in Law: A Structured Approach to Enhancing Legal Reasoning through Argument Mining

Carlotta Giacchetta, Raffaella Bernardi,
Jacopo Staiano, Serena Tomasi

This research proposes a structured approach to enhance AI-driven legal reasoning, focusing on Argument Mining to extract premises, conclusions, and argumentative components from court rulings. Using a diverse dataset from courts such as the ECtHR and Italian Court of Cassation, we apply GPT-4o for dual-level syntactic and semantic analysis, classifying arguments via Bobbitt's six modalities. Human annotations benchmark AI output, guiding prompt refinement. Our method supports transparent, reliable legal AI tools, offering insights into judicial reasoning, moral considerations, and precedent influence, while addressing hallucination risks, bias, and epistemic responsibility in automated legal decision-making.

Thursday September 25 11:00 – 11:30 Room 3.07

Regular papers

Repairing Fallacious Argumentation in Political Debates

Pierpaolo Goffredo, Deborah Dore, Elena Cabrio, Serena Villata

Fallacious arguments are defined as “invalid” arguments or wrong moves in argumentative discourse. This kind of argument is misleading, and its spreading severely impacts society. However, merely identifying them is insufficient to ensure the audience realizes the impact of the fallacious argument and to enhance critical thinking. In this paper, we propose a new task called repairing fallacious argumentation, where statements that contain fallacious arguments are modified into versions that are fairer and free from fallacies. We introduce a novel dataset, FallacyFix, comprising repaired arguments across five fallacy categories. We evaluate our approach through an extensive automatic and human evaluation.

Wednesday September 24 11:30 – 12:00 Room 4.01

Arguments in Geopolitical Forecasts

Kamila Gorska, John Lawrence, Chris Reed

Forecasting future events is vital across many domains. This work analyses rationales from the Hybrid Forecasting Competition to examine how logical, structural, and linguistic features of argumentation relate to forecasting success. It focuses on how forecasters construct arguments for or against outcomes, and whether specific forms, such as linked or convergent reasoning, are linked to accuracy. Results show that certain strategies are more common in successful forecasts, suggesting that argument quality supports effective prediction. These insights provide a basis for tools and training aimed at improving reasoning in complex decision-making contexts such as geopolitics and intelligence analysis.

Friday September 26 11:30 – 12:00 Room 4.02

Regular papers

How dispute mediators respond to parties' accusations: semantic-pragmatic analysis and argumentative implications

Sara Greco, Claudia Coppola, Chiara Jermini-Martinez Soria

The speech act of accusation has been characterized in linguistics, and the answers that accused persons give have been considered in argumentation studies. However, a research area that has received less attention is how third neutral participants in argumentative discussions, such as conflict mediators, respond to conflicting parties' reciprocal accusations. This paper delves into this research question in the framework of the ORBIS project (<https://orbis-project.eu>). Looking at a corpus of mediation sessions (Swiss Mediation Corpus), we consider cases in which mediators respond to parties' accusations; we draw a typology of their answers, while connecting them to mediators' argumentative goals.

Thursday September 25 12:00 – 12:30 Room 3.07

And that's why it's true: multimodal proof in fact-checking on TikTok

Maciej Grzenkowicz

In this paper, I present a study of fact-checking TikTok videos to show how journalists use multimodal proofs to support their assessments of dubious claims. I do so by analyzing several fact-checking videos using a semiotic-argumentative framework that combines multimodal semiotics with pragma-dialectics. As a result, I suggest that the usage of multimodal proofs in these videos aims to recreate fact-checkers' inference process in the receiver. The success of the proofs, however, depends on whether the viewer commits to certain presumptions about the affordances of the materials used, e.g. that realistic photographs afford seeing a reliable representation of reality.

Wednesday September 24 12:00 – 12:30 Room 4.07

Unpacking the Complexity of International Human Rights Law: A New Rhetoric Perspective

Ronnie Haidar

This paper analyzes international human rights law using Chaïm Perelman and Lucie Olbrechts-Tyteca's New Rhetoric framework. Although the United Nations promotes human rights as a universal legal and moral standard, the system is often seen as complex and open to varying interpretations. The New Rhetoric's emphasis on audience, especially the concept of a "universal audience," offers a compelling lens for examining how human rights principles attempt to transcend cultural and national boundaries. This framework provides a deeper understanding of the complexities within international human rights law and its effectiveness as a tool for advancing global justice.

Wednesday September 24 12:30 – 13:00 Room 4.02

Warrants, Schemes and Deductivism

Hans V Hansen

This presentation explores the differences (if any there are) between using warrants, schemes and deductivism for the evaluation of natural language arguments. In looking at warrants I consider the logical tradition from Mill, Peirce, Sidgwick, Toulmin, Hitchcock and Pinto; for deductivism I look at Whately, Pragma-dialectics, Govier, Groarke, Bermejo-Luque and Godden; for schemes I review Walton, Macagno, Tindale, and Hansen. The aim is to distinguish these three methods of informal logic and compare them with respect to their reliability and scope.

Wednesday September 24 12:30 – 13:00 Room 4.05

Regular papers

Arguing with ChatGPT: Large Language Models and the Inference to the Best Explanation

Annette Hautli-Janisz, Marcin Lewinski,
Álvaro Dominguez-Armas, Petar Bodlović

In this paper we test the ability of Large Language Models (LLMs) to engage in quality argumentative interactions with users. To this end, we analyse in total five dialogues with ChatGPT 4.0, prompting the model to produce Inferences to the Best Explanation (IBEs) via a sequence of user questions and critiques of the model's responses. We found that GPT responds with well-articulated, accurate, reasonable and plausible text. It also generates explanations and justifications in advance, without being explicitly tasked to do so – thereby appearing to be more reasonable than most people.

Friday September 26 11:00 – 11:30 Room 3.01

Assessing Argument Literacy: Developing a Civic Argument Literacy Test

Mika Hietanen

Argument literacy – the ability to analyse and evaluate arguments in context – is essential in adult life. Yet, many struggle to distinguish opinions from reasoned claims, weak arguments from strong, and to understand how reasons support a claim. To address this, the Civic Argument Literacy Test (CALT) has been developed. It assesses nine argument literacy sub-skills using real-world-type examples. CALT supports both diagnostic use and pre/post-testing in education. CALT has been piloted and revised twice 2023–25. The challenges of designing the test are discussed, including content, construct, and criterion validity. The end-purpose is to offer an argumentation theory-based model for strengthening real-life argument literacy.

Wednesday September 24 14:30 – 15:00 Room 3.01

Regular papers

I am whom I trust: Arguments from Authority as Expressions of Identity

Martin Hinton, Weronika Olkowska

We explore two phenomena of interest to argumentation theory scholars: arguments from authority and the function of argumentation to express identity. We claim that certain types of argument from authority carry with them a degree of association with the authority on the part of the arguer, projecting to the audience information concerning their own identity and a particular attitude towards what it is to be a trusted source. We suggest that citing views, opinions and advice emanating from certain trusted figures is a key way to use argumentation for identity expression and the establishment of social, political, and intellectual status.

Wednesday September 24 12:00 – 12:30 Room 3.07

Strong Contextualism About the Aim of Argumentation

Joachim Horvath

Many argumentation theorists assume an aim of argumentation, such as disagreement-resolution or knowledge-dissemination. However, given highly diverse argumentative contexts, from debating contests to investigative committees, a limited aim-pluralism, such as Walton's, will not do. This paper proposes strong contextualism instead: the specific aim of an argumentation is constituted by the complex configuration of, e.g., arguers' intentions, institutional norms, and conversational context. As an application to philosophical argumentation, the paper argues that its aim is not, e.g., agreement or knowledge-dissemination, but rather filtering out the serious dialectical contenders in the debate, which allows for a more positive perspective on philosophical progress.

Wednesday September 24 16:00 – 16:30 Room 3.07

Regular papers

The phenomenon of online radicalization and recruitment: an empirical analysis from argument dialectics.

Sara Hssaine

This proposal examines cyberjihad through the lens of argumentation theory, specifically argument dialectics, via empirical analysis of textual materials used in the process of propaganda, radicalization and recruitment. The analysis focuses on identifying and explaining argumentative and counter-argumentative moves in their specific context highlighting their role in self-radicalization processes. By analyzing the content of an ISKP digital magazine, the study reveals the complexity and persuasive strategies of jihadist discourse, which may help explain its impact and effectiveness. These insights could improve both the theoretical understanding of cyberjihad and practical approaches to countering the phenomenon in the current digital age.

Wednesday September 24 17:15 – 17:45 Room 4.02

I

Exhorting Across Political Divides in a Digital Society

Beth Innocenti

How can arguers effectively exhort across political divides? A digital society extends the reach of messaging but can exacerbate polarization. What inspires one party may outrage another. Drawing upon normative pragmatics, I analyze a high-profile online event exhorting white women to support Kamala Harris' candidacy for U.S. President and critical responses to it. I find that exhorters failed to consider addressees' constraints inhibiting principled action and exacerbated polarization. Critics called for argument-making because it displays respect and understanding of conservative white women. I conclude that argument-making can be efficacious for exhorting by displaying speakers' understanding of other parties.

Friday September 26 11:30 – 12:00 Room 3.01

The Volatility of Correctness Norms: An Observational Study

Sally Jackson

I report a study of an active controversy over what can be concluded from a collection of randomized clinical trials on a certain medical treatment. A Cochrane Review concludes that the trials show the treatment to be beneficial, but persistent public criticism suggests that no such conclusion can be drawn from them. To understand this controversy requires more than consideration of which position adheres more closely to some acknowledged standard. It requires exploration of changing "correctness norms" (Zenker et al., 2024, "Norms of Public Argumentation") as they have evolved in the context of evidence-based medicine over the last few decades.

Wednesday September 24 17:15 – 17:45 Room 4.07

Ethos in Richard Nixon's "Checkers" Speech: Appealing to Commonsense Reasoning About How an Innocent Man Would Act in the Face of a Smear

Scott Jacobs

Nixon's "Checkers" speech is the most persuasively effective speech in American political history. The speech is a remarkable recovery of ethos—one based on a kind of ethos that political pundits sneered at, that argumentation critics to this day view with deep suspicion, and whose in-the-moment process of creation defies standard theorizing concerning what ethos is, how it works, and how it is made relevant. Rather than making an argument for his character, Nixon performed his argument of self-defense in a way that displayed character. This was not an "ethotic argument," but a manner of argument. Nixon's organic persona defied the sort of eloquence and political character that rhetorical critics tend to venerate. This study shows how manner of delivery, word choice, emotional expression, and topical strategy all evoke a sense of trustworthiness, moral character, and public virtue adapted to the argumentative situation and sensibilities of the 1952 American public.

Thursday September 25 11:00 – 11:30 Room 4.05

Regular papers

Why and how do we need a concept of truth in argumentation?

Sebastian Jasper

Argumentation requires a concept of truth because the norms guiding it toward orientation derive their meaning from truth itself. Orientation, pragmatically understood, consists in having expectations that follow from beliefs and are mostly fulfilled. Three truth-based norms structure this process: first, every new thesis must be treated as potentially orienting, and unsatisfied expectations traced to false beliefs that are corrected; second, a mostly true belief set must be presupposed to support meaningful reasoning; third, orientation is assumed to be ultimately achievable, sustaining engagement despite uncertainty and revision.

Wednesday September 24 11:00 – 11:30 Room 3.12

Debate in Japan: Present Circumstances and Future Directions for a Sustainable Community

Kota Jodoi

Debate is a valuable educational tool, yet participation in Japan is declining despite its inclusion in the 2022 high school English curriculum. This qualitative study explores factors behind this trend through interviews with experienced debaters. Key issues include a shortage of coaches, limited accessible competitions, and competition from other activities. Successful strategies include reducing jargon, using digital tools for outreach, and creating inclusive spaces for both competitive and casual debaters. The study recommends AI coaching, interdisciplinary integration, and beginner-friendly formats. Though limited by sample size, the findings offer insights for sustaining debate culture in Japan and globally.

Wednesday September 24 15:30 – 16:00 Room 3.07

Regular papers

President Donald Trump's executive orders – normative argumentation and its presentation in the digital world

Anna Jopek-Bosiacka

In today's digital sphere, politics and law are becoming increasingly mediated. This study examines argumentation in selected executive orders by Donald Trump, focusing on their titles and purpose/policy sections, and compares them to his rhetoric on the X platform. Titles signal scope and context, while purpose/policy sections outline motives and normative justifications. By juxtaposing legal argumentation with its social media framing, the research identifies changes in policy goal argumentation, Trump's rhetorical strategies, and institutional persuasion for various audiences. It contributes to understanding how digitised public communication may reshape the presentation and justification of laws and policy-making.

Friday September 26 14:30 – 15:00 Room 4.05

Representing within reasonable means - How do politicians justify their representative claims on social media?

Vanessza Juhász

The crisis of representative democracy has long concerned scholars. Constructivist approaches emphasize the importance of representative claims uttered by candidates to whom social media has become a crucial platform for dissemination. Literature suggests that the quality of representative claims correlates with the strength of their justification. This study investigates what types of argumentation schemes and fallacies are used to justify representative claims and whether these vary depending on the object or the subject of the claim by conducting a qualitative content analysis of Facebook posts from Hungarian parties and party leaders during the campaign period of the 2022 parliamentary elections.

Thursday September 25 12:30 – 13:00 Room 4.07

Orientations toward Interpersonal Arguing in Ukraine, Across Three War Conditions

Iryna Khomenko, Dale Hample

This is an empirical investigation concerning how Ukrainians think about arguing face to face. Interpretation of our current data is strongly contextualised by the war in Ukraine. We use a group of measures which address people's motivations to argue and how people understand arguing. We found that Ukrainians living at war were more willing to argue, more oriented to utilitarian issues while arguing, more willing to argue for fun, were more civil during an interpersonal conflict, had more sophistication about the nature of face-to-face arguing, and were more positive about the prospect of arguing with another person than in peacetime.

Thursday September 25 12:00 – 12:30 Room 3.01

Auditory Arguments and the Potential for Refutation in Multimodal Argumentation

Gabrijela Kisicek

This paper is a continuation of the analysis of sound in an argumentative discourse. It has been well-known that refutation or challenging opponents thesis is a crucial part of argumentation which then raises the question, can we argue with sound. If I follow Van Laar`s (2024) concept of argumentation as a dialogue the question which this paper will determine is how do we challenge and respond to challenge using sound. Lake and Pickering (1998) discussed possibilities of refutation in the realm of visual argumentation concluding that even though there are no "oppositions" of visuals nonetheless refutations are possible. The same questions apply to auditory arguments.

Wednesday September 25 14:30 – 15:00 Room 4.07

Regular papers

Deconstructing the Argumentative Dynamics in Concessive Constructions in Dialogue

Zlata Kikteva, Annette Hautli-Janisz

Concessions play an important part in dialogue, where they are not only used to mitigate disagreement, but also have an argumentative role. In this work, however, we focus on the argumentative dynamics within concessions rather than their argumentative function. To do so, we apply the “denial of expectation” analysis of concessions to instances of conversational concessions, where the expectation is frequently created via an inference relation and the “denial” is expressed via conflict. With this analysis, we uncover several patterns of argumentative relations between elements of concessive constructions, which furthers understanding of how concessions are created and function in dialogue.

Friday September 26 12:00 – 12:30 Room 4.05

Emergent common ground and argumentation in antenatal care conversations

Elisabeth Kleschatzky, Kati Hannken-Illjes

This talk studies the relationship of argumentation and emergent common ground in interactions in medical interactions, namely in antenatal care conversations. In this context, the establishment of common ground is crucial for this type of medical interaction as it is the basis for informed (and shared) decision-making. At the same time, the conversations at hand – like doctor-patient conversations in general - are characterized by specific knowledge asymmetries between the participants. This paper studies how participants establish common ground during conversations through argumentation on the basis of a corpus of videographed antenatal care consultations.

Thursday September 25 9:30 – 10:00 Room 4.05

Regular papers

Persuading is just the beginning: an exploration of argument functions

Miriam Kobierski

This research reports on an ongoing empirical study into the relationship between the linguistic devices used in argumentative texts and the functional role of the arguments they contain. In this study, I employ a typology of argument functions which builds on work by Asen (2005), Goodwin (2007), and Doury (2011). The study is based on the analysis of a corpus of arguments from a range of social media. I examine the various argument functions found in real world discourse, and investigate the language of those arguments in order to analyse how the linguistic and rhetorical features of arguments vary across different argument functions.

Wednesday September 24 15:30 – 16:00 Room 3.12

Persuasion, language, and emotional valence: A study on Czech–Slovak receptive bilinguals’ perception of argumentative health messages

Barbora Kolcunova, Monique Flecken, Jean Wagemans, Michal Korenar

This study explores how language choice affects the persuasiveness of health-related messages among 159 Czech–Slovak receptive bilinguals. Using the Periodic Table of Arguments (PTA) for systematic classification, messages were framed with positive or negative premises. Participants rated persuasiveness and emotional valence via online questionnaires. Regression analyses showed no significant advantage for native language messages; bilinguals perceived messages similarly in Czech (L1) and Slovak (L2). Emotional valence was a key determinant, with positively framed messages rated more persuasive. Slovak speakers found messages more persuasive overall, suggesting cultural influences. These findings inform future cross-linguistic studies and the design of persuasive materials.

Wednesday September 24 17:45 – 18:15 Room 4.04

Regular papers

Groarke's Deductivism and the Pitfall of Circular Reasoning

Tomas Kollarik

This paper critically assesses Leo Groarke's deductivist approach to argument reconstruction. While offering analytical clarity, I argue its application to structurally complete, non-deductive arguments—such as inductive generalizations, arguments from authority, and testimony—inevitably leads to circularity or redundancy. These issues expose a fundamental flaw in deductivism's universalist claims. Analysis of these reconstructions shows the added implicit premises either presuppose the conclusion or render the original evidence superfluous. This critique is distinguished from others by focusing specifically on this structural circularity. The paper concludes that this failure undermines both interpretive and evaluative deductivism, urging an acceptance of logical heterogeneity.

Wednesday September 24 12:30 – 13:00 Room 3.12

Reformulation and Fake News: Rephrase Studies in the Argument Assessment of Disinformation

Marcin Koszowy, Mitchell Thomas Welle

We sketch a research agenda linking argumentation theory, informal logic, and rephrase studies to explore how rephrasing may enable manipulation in fake-news contexts. We aim to develop rephrase-sensitive assessment procedures to locate potential “critical loci” of manipulation and to test whether common definitions of fake news align with recurring rephrase techniques based on our research that revealed a convergence of typical definitions of fake news in both computer science and philosophy. We also propose a direction via a critical thinking toolkit to surface hidden premises and gauge shifts in persuasive force, laying groundwork for resilience.

Friday September 26 15:30 – 16:00 Room 4.04

Regular papers

Justice in argumentation. A standard for hateful speech moderation and charitable discussion

Maciej Kulik, Martin Hinton

In this presentation, we draw on the Aristotelian justice to establish the foundations for an ethics of online argumentation. The principle obliges us to respect the dignity of every human being, which is rooted in the capacity to have and act on reasons. Justice prohibits hateful speech; since people can act on reasons, we should assess them morally based on their actions, not on features such as race, gender, or nationality. The capacity to have reasons implies also the principle of charity, i.e., the requirement to interpret the interlocutor's arguments as if they were good reasons.

Thursday September 25 9:30 – 10:00 Room 3.12

L

Teaching Reasonable Argumentation In Neonatology (TRAIN): Development and evaluation of a digital tool to teach clinical argumentation skills

Nanon Labrie

Research shows that when clinicians substantiate treatment plans with reasonable argumentation, this can improve outcomes of care. Therefore, building on previous work, we studied how clinical argumentation skills can be effectively taught to clinicians, using a digital training tool. We developed a digital training tool starting from the pragma-dialectical theory of argumentation. 30 clinicians voluntarily enrolled in the training. We evaluated training efficacy with a pre-/post-test design, video-recording and analyzing clinicians' (standardized) treatment conversations with actors. Additionally, we surveyed clinicians about their learning experiences. The training appeared highly effective, both increasing clinicians' argumentation skills significantly and addressing their learning needs.

Friday September 26 15:30 – 16:00 Room 4.01

Regular papers

Multimodal Argumentation in Advertising: Analyzing Argumentation Schemes in Commercial and Public Service Advertisements

Ting Lan

This study investigates multimodal argumentation in commercial and public service advertisements, examining their distinct argumentative strategies. It proposes a three-step analytical framework: (1) identifying the argumentation schemes in advertisements by analyzing premises and conclusions within the contexts, (2) exploring interrelations among these schemes, and (3) assessing the reasonableness and effectiveness of the arguments. A comparative analysis of two case studies—Coca-Cola’s “Share a Coke” campaign and a carbon footprint public service announcement—reveals genre-specific argumentative strategies. The findings underscore the diversity of multimodal argumentation across advertising contexts, providing new insights for its analysis and evaluation.

Wednesday September 24 11:30 – 12:00 Room 4.07

Clarification in multimodal argumentation

Jan Albert Van Laar

Non-verbal communication is rife with issues of clarity. Can the dialectical ideal of clarity be upheld in multimodal argumentation? In this presentation, I discuss how multimodal discourse often includes attempts at clarification, showing how participants deal with potential clarity issues. To this end, I adapt Walton’s views on clarification dialogue to encompass non-verbal modes.

Wednesday September 24 12:30 – 13:00 Room 4.07

Regular papers

Can LLMs Understand Natural Language Argumentation? A Study in Identifying and Classifying Argumentation Scheme Instances

John Lawrence, Zlata Kikteva, Ramon Ruiz-Dolz

In this work we explore the ability of Large Language Models (LLMs) to follow reasoning structure and identify argumentation schemes. In our first approach, we provide LLMs with the definitions and examples of argumentation schemes, tasking the LLM with identifying the closest matching scheme type. With our second approach, we guide LLMs through scheme classification using a dichotomous identification tree based on the distinctive features of a 'species' of argumentation scheme leading to a particular type. Lastly, in our third approach, we also leverage this tree to prompt the LLMs by defining a chain-of-thought leading towards specific types of schemes.

Wednesday September 24 14:30 – 15:00 Room 4.05

How can virtue argumentation theory aid in evaluating individual arguments?

Wenjun Li, Shiyang Yu

The evaluation of arguments—in the abstract propositional sense—has been “the first matter of concern” in Virtue Argumentation Theory (VAT) (Gascón, 2015). After reviewing the ongoing debate, we show that many responses sidestep the issue by redefining a (good) argument. Rather than assessing whether virtues can adequately evaluate arguments, we focus on the comparative advantages of virtue-based versus informal logic-based evaluation. Informal logic-based evaluation is constrained by the evaluator’s resources and competence, creating space for virtue-based evaluation to outperform. However, since the quality of abstract propositional arguments is defined by informal logical standards, virtues facilitate the informal logic-based evaluation.

Friday September 26 16:00 – 16:30 Room 4.02

Regular papers

A Critical Examination of the Meta-Argument Approach to Analogical Arguments

Yanlin Liao

The study of the logical structure of analogical arguments is divided between the principle-based and similarities-based approaches. Recently, building on Woods and Hudak, Alhambra has proposed a meta-argument scheme that treats analogical arguments as relations between logically isomorphic arguments, presenting it as a “particularist” defense of the similarities-based approach. This paper critically examines the scheme and argues that, although it strengthens the similarities-based framework by clarifying the logical structure of analogical arguments, it nonetheless subtly presupposes general principles, thereby weakening its defense of particularism.

Wednesday September 24 16:00 – 16:30 Room 4.05

What Are Generalizable Skills of Critical Thinking? — Back to John Dewey

Runcheng Liang

Generalizable skills of critical thinking remain controversial. Johnson’s work highlights that definitions are the basis of such skills; it also points out the insufficient attention given to definitions of critical thinking and proposes evaluative criteria. I contend that Johnson’s criteria assess isolated definitions rather than the broader propositional units that comprise definitions, their elaborations, and related information. Therefore, I appeal to rhetorical structure theory, introducing textual coherence as a criterion. Applying this framework to evaluate some competing propositional units, I conclude that Dewey’s propositional units exhibit the greatest coherence in a theoretical comparison.

Wednesday September 24 17:45 – 18:15 Room 4.01

Regular papers

Argumentation in Trusted Research Environments: A Framework for Secure Cross-Document Analysis

Alina Littek, John Lawrence

The application of argumentation to systematically evaluate healthcare evidence remains underexplored. Trusted Research Environments provide secure settings for analysing sensitive patient data but impose strict regulations to prevent physical aggregation across multiple sources. A key challenge is meaningful insight generation from many distributed sources across a large search space. This data separation limits conventional argument mining and analysis, which typically assumes short documents and unified data repositories. We extend argumentation beyond single-document settings, proposing a framework for structured analysis across distributed datasets that preserves privacy safeguards for sensitive medical data while enabling efficient processing.

Thursday September 25 9:00 – 9:30 Room 4.01

On the interplay of Logic and Argumentation theory for the assessment of arguments

Natalia Luna

In this paper on the philosophy of argument and philosophy of logic, I will inquire whether both disciplines are necessary for the analysis and assessment of arguments and how this assessment can play a role in the assessment of argumentation in general. I will present a characterization of both argumentation theory and Logic and I will support a compatibilist view for the use of the methods and tools provided by both disciplines as necessary for the analysis and assessment of arguments. In order to do that, following the work of Michael Resnik and Penelope Rush for the status of Logical sentences or logic in general (Resnik 1997, Rush 2014), I will provide a characterization of what is an argument and how the ontological status given to it plays a role of in the notion of argumentation itself. I will explain a realist and several non-realist positions of the status of argument. Among the non-realist ones, I will include a conceptualist, relativist, proceduralist, psychologist and a non-cognitivist position. This to avoid a general conflation between a realist position of arguments and a monist view of the argumentation theory or logic that can be used to assess arguments in general. I will stress the importance of recognizing the ontological status assigned to arguments and its consequences for the conception of what argumentation is.

Friday September 26 11:30 – 12:00 Room 4.07

M

The argumentative functions of strategic questions

Fabrizio Macagno

This paper addresses the strategic role of “non-standard” questions in discourse based on a commitment approach. The goal is to analyze the variety of the argumentative uses of different syntactic types of non-standard interrogative utterances, focusing on the dialogical goal that they pursue (Walton & Krabbe, 1995) and the types of argument they express (Walton et al., 2008). Through the analysis of a Portuguese corpus of parliamentary speeches of 2022 (6 months), the relationship between syntactic types and dialogical and argumentative functions is examined, and the most important argumentative functions that “non-standard” questions play therein are presented and illustrated.

Thursday September 25 12:00 – 12:30 Room 4.05

Quantifying Argumentative Style

Eimear Maguire, Jacky Visser, John Lawrence, Chris Reed

We expand upon existing approaches to argumentative style, proposing quantitative methods to capture dialectical, logical and rhetorical aspects thereof. Among other elements, we explore choice of speech act, structural features of presented arguments, and use of rhetorical figures, exploring argumentative style across multiple dimensions of natural language data. As a case study we consider material from the QT30 corpus, a corpus of broadcast panel debate annotated with support and attack relations, discourse structure, and speech acts. Our analysis captures argumentative styles across multiple dimensions, developing insights for applications ranging from the study of persuasive effect to automatic speaker identification.

Friday September 26 11:30 – 12:00 Room 3.12

Regular papers

How Argumentation Theorists Evaluate Arguments?

Szymon Makuła, Jakub Prus

This exploratory study examined whether political content influences argument evaluations among 98 argumentation theorists. Participants assessed 10 arguments, either all neutral (control) or with six politically framed items (experimental), matched to their declared political leanings. Due to violations of MANOVA assumptions, we used its robust counterpart, PERMANOVA, which found no statistically significant global differences ($R^2 \approx .02$, $p \approx .088$). Our results constrain any influence of political content to small sizes (1–3% variance explained). Based on sensitivity analysis, we conclude that politically laden arguments did not, at least moderately, influence argument evaluation, although smaller effects remain possible.

Thursday September 25 9:00 – 9:30 Room 3.12

Arguing in Colombia: Dialogue in a Society Impacted by Conflict and Violence

Juan Mamberti, Luisa Salazar-Escalante,
Dale Hample, Jessica M. Hample

We investigate orientations toward interpersonal arguing in Colombia, which has experienced a period of civil unrest and violence. We found clear sex differences, such that men were more aggressive. Age had restricted range here, and only minor associations with arguing orientations. Power distance was clearly predictive of these orientations, especially motivations and argument frames. Correlations among the variables showed dynamics that are similar to those found around the world. Colombian orientations were generally similar to those found in other Latin American nations, and but were somewhat distinguished from Ukraine and Cameroun, which were also experiencing local violence during data collections.

Wednesday September 24 15:00 – 15:30 Room 3.07

The "Argumentum ad Derby"

Maurizio Manzin

“Argumentum ad derby” consists in generating for each standpoint a counter one to which all possible alternatives are reduced, transforming the conversation into a sort of derby. This argumentative tool is extremely popular in public communication. I will analyze its psychological and political profiles, linked to the psychotic expression of “splitting” and to the “friend-enemy” scheme. I will then address the philosophical profile (stressing its gnostic roots and social dangerousness) as well as the logical-argumentative one (fallacy). In the final section some implications of argumentative polarization related to the so-called “media trials” and “accusation theorems” will be illustrated.

Thursday September 25 11:30 – 12:00 Room 3.07

The Limits of Argument by Analogy

Hubert Marraud

Meta-argumentative accounts of arguments by analogy hold that analogous arguments stand or fall together because they possess similar deep structures that make them coincide in logical form. Although the meta-argumentative approach is primarily correct, the operation of arguments by analogy is more complex than the meta-argumentative account suggests. That two arguments are analogous only secures that they offer reasons subject to the same kind of conditions of rebuttal and modifiers. Since the occurrence of conditions and modifiers is a matter of fact, that two arguments present the same type of reason does not ensure that they stand or fall together.

Wednesday September 24 15:00 – 15:30 Room 4.05

Regular papers

An Approach to Dascal's Controversy from the Perspective of Argument Dialectics

Teresita Mijangos-Martinez

A controversy in Dascal's sense is a polemic dialog in which even when interlocutors hold opposed positions, disagreement does not obstacle communication. Through some parts of the Chomsky-Foucault debate, I explore Argument Dialectics, a logical proposal in Argumentation Theory, as a suitable framework for the logical analysis of controversies. The selection of Argument Dialectics is not random; there are some similarities between this framework and a controversy, including: the notion of reason, the conception of argumentation, and the non-dichotomy on some of the classifications assumed.

Wednesday September 25 11:00 – 11:30 Room 3.07

Quantitative Literacy and Argumentation: Insights from Data Interpretation Tasks in the Polish Matriculation Exam

Ewa Modrzejewska

In a data-driven society, citizens face challenges from multimodal information and argument sources requiring various literacies. This paper analyzes a unique dataset from the 2024 Polish Matriculation Exam (Matura) in Knowledge about Society, focusing on tasks that require students to interpret data from tables and graphs to construct or evaluate arguments. With fewer than half of these tasks completed correctly, the study aims to identify common error patterns among 330 exams, exploring whether difficulties arise from data comprehension or argument formulation. Findings will enhance understanding of the interplay between data literacy and numeracy in argumentation.

Wednesday September 25 15:00 – 15:30 Room 3.01

Preaching to the converted: The role of public reason-giving in epistemic resistance

Dima Mohammed

In this talk, I look into the role that persuasion plays in political argumentation. Remaining within a communicative view of argumentation, I consider the objections to the centrality of persuasion thesis, and I propose responses to them. I discuss the multiple goals and functions of public and political argumentation (Mohammed 2016, Zenker et al. 2023), with a focus on arguments occurring in contexts where rational persuasion seems unattainable or off-the-wall. for example because of polarization (Aikin & Talisse 2020) or epistemic injustice (Fricker 2007, Medina 2023). I argue that while a pursuit of persuasion is at the heart of any argument, public political arguments may not be reduced to such pursuit.: an adequate account of political argumentation today ought to go beyond persuasion and account for the role of public reason-giving in epistemic resistance.

Thursday September 25 11:30 – 12:00 Room 3.01

Is climate change black and white? Exploring dichotomic framings of climate causality in Reddit

Elena Musi, Andrea Rocci, Nataly Pineda

Polarization is driven not only by informational biases but also by argumentation strategies. One logico-argumentative aspect of polarization is the conflation of contrary and contradictory positions, frequently referred as black and white fallacy and false dilemma. We examine the use of dichotomic framing in causal reasoning in social media discussions of climate issues in two subreddits, r/climatechange and r/climateskeptics. We examine the use of this strategy, the role of attribution of moral responsibility and the presence of supporting evidence excluding alternatives. We situate findings within a polylogical argumentation framework emphasizing the exploration of alternative viewpoints for productive dialogue.

Friday September 26 12:00 – 12:30 Room 3.07

N

The Role of Argumentative Virtues in Judicial Decision-Making and Public Opinion

Zihan Niu, Yiran Wang

Public opinion, amplified by social media, increasingly impacts judicial decisions. This paper argues that fostering argumentative virtues can improve interactions between the public and judiciary. Media and the public should combat epistemic vices through virtues like fair-mindedness and critical trust to ensure reasoned discourse, avoiding misinformation threatening judicial fairness. Simultaneously, judges should uphold virtues such as intellectual integrity and empathy when engaging with public concerns—transparently explaining legal reasoning to build trust without compromising independence. Cultivating these virtues in both public discourse and judicial responses can improve public-judicial dialogue, reconciling judicial autonomy with societal needs.

Friday September 26 15:30 – 16:00 Room 4.02

O

LLM's-side Bias

Tomáš Ondráček, Mariusz Urbanski, Pawel Lupkowski

How effectively can large language models (LLMs) simulate argument evaluation? This paper explores the manifestation of myside bias (Stanovich, West, & Toplak, 2013) in synthetic probands—artificially generated entities modelled to resemble human reasoners. We examine whether synthetic probands exhibit biases similar to those observed in human reasoning, particularly in the context of argument evaluation. This inquiry extends beyond determining whether LLMs merely accept arguments as sound but also addresses their ability to assess argument validity (cf. Čavojová, Šrol, & Adamus, 2018).

Thursday September 25 11:30 – 12:00 Room 3.12

Regular papers

Arguing virtuously by questioning (or not questioning)

Wenqi Ouyang, Yun Xie

This paper shifts from the dialectical-obligation view to examine when questioning (or not questioning) constitutes a virtuous argumentative conduct. First, we analyze how questioning reflects argumentative virtues and contributes to intellectual character development from a virtue argumentation perspective. Second, we establish contextual conditions for virtuous questioning by examining both individual factors (epistemic-social status) and communal dynamics (power structures, trust levels, epistemic goals). Our framework provides nuanced evaluation criteria, revealing that questioning is more likely to be virtuous when: (1) power relations are balanced, (2) mutual trust is strong, and (3) cognitive norms encourage critical engagement.

Thursday September 25 9:30 – 10:00 Room 4.04

P

Argumentation, deliberation quality and political participation: some musings on a complex relationship

Fabio Paglieri

When democratic institutions face unprecedented challenges, proposals for deliberative democracy (i.e., giving argumentation a central role in collective decision making) become urgent. Existing approaches are either based on discourse ethics and focused on individual contributions or analyze deliberative quality as a property of relationships between individuals. This paper presents a new conceptualization of deliberation quality, characterized by (i) a multi-factorial structure, (ii) an effort to turn each factor into metrics, and (iii) a commitment to “democracy for busy people”, i.e. keeping cognitive efforts at manageable levels, so that deliberation may benefit the whole polity and not just self-selected minorities.

Wednesday September 24 14:30 – 15:00 Room 3.07

Regular papers

The influencers' appeal to authority: ethos-building strategies by news and financial youtubers

Rudi Palmieri, Elena Musi

Social media influencers have emerged as a new form of communicative authority in different domains, such as news, beauty products, sports, or personal finance. Influencers rely on perceived ethos as a crucial factor of persuasion beyond the strengths of the arguments proposed in the message. Drawing from an Aristotelian understanding of ethos, we examine how influencers build ethos through discourse. Our goal is to analyse ethos-building strategies - or arguments to authority - adopted by social media influencers in the news and financial domains to understand what counts as relevant factors of authority in this context.

Wednesday September 24 11:30 – 12:00 Room 3.07

A proposal for an entity annotation framework for the development of Ethos Analytics

Martín Pereira-Fariña, Ewelina Gajewska, Katarzyna Budzynska

This paper advances the study of divisive rhetoric by integrating an ethotic analysis to better understand how ethos influences argumentative strategies that deepen social polarisation. Building on Zoppetti's framework, which identifies communicative devices that reinforce in-group/out-group divides, this work addresses the underexplored role of ethotic components in shaping audience perception and debate dynamics. A corpus of U.S. presidential debates from 2016 and 2024 was segmented into 3,094 argumentative discourse units, followed by manual annotation of ethotic references and the development of an algorithm to quantify relationships among speakers, entities, and linguistic labels. The findings highlight how self-referential and other-directed pronouns, alongside positive and negative labelling, function as ethotic devices that construct social identities and divisions. This ethotic perspective offers novel insights into argumentative processes and suggests pathways for promoting moderation in polarised public discourse.

Thursday September 25 12:00 – 12:30 Room 3.12

Regular papers

Understanding Virtue Through Vice: A Proposed Change to Virtue Argumentation Theory

Alexander Petk

Scholars like Andrew Aberdein (Aberdein, 2010) and Daniel H. Cohen (Cohen, 2013) argue that understanding argumentation within the framework of virtue theory allows for novel and nuanced approaches to argumentation. Virtue argumentation theory (VAT), understands arguments and arguers in relation to the relevant virtues. However, I posit that the best framework for VAT is not a focus on virtues, but rather on avoiding the extremes of argumentation: vices. I put forward that a vice-focused account of VAT allows for similar judgments about the strength of arguments while retaining the unique understanding of arguments that VAT provides while avoiding many of the criticisms leveled at traditional VAT.

Wednesday September 24 17:15 -17:55 Room 4.05

Agent-defocussing as an argumentative strategy in public controversies on sustainable fashion

Emeline Pierre

Textile consumption ranks Europe's fourth main contributor to environment and climate change, after food, housing, and mobility. The present paper examines the polylogue between social media activists, fast fashion brands, and European institutions around ongoing public controversies in the fashion industry. In a context where activists demand systemic change, European institutions want to enhance the social and environmental performance of the textile sector, and brands attempt to juggle consumer expectations, their own interests, and the EU sustainability-related targets, the question of social responsibilities arises. More specifically, this study analyzes how the process of agent-defocussing is converted in a key strategy to negotiate social responsibilities and the relationship between problem and solution.

Thursday September 25 9:30 – 10:00 Room 4.07

Regular papers

“My colleagues thought I might need a tetanus shot”: Patients’ strategic references to third parties in medical consultation

Roosmaryn Pilgram

During medical consultations, patients can convey questions, concerns, or suggestions by referring to someone who is not present at the consultation (e.g., “My friend said that antibiotics might help”). This is a potentially strategic move in treatment decision-making, as patients can decide themselves how to represent the views of the referred to third parties. In this contribution, I will examine the strategic functions of patients’ references to non-present third parties in medical consultations. Specifically, I will distinguish between different references types, outline potential argumentative functions, and analyse actual examples of patients’ references to third parties as strategic manoeuvres.

Wednesday September 24 11:00 – 11:30 Room 4.04

A Cracovian Debate: Cooperative Debate Format Based on the Dialectical Principle of Charity

Jakub Pruś

“Cracovian debate” is a new format of academic debating, which has the cognitive gain of all participants as its sole objective. The hypothesis is that this format of promotes the following features: (1) openness to new information and disconfirming feedback; (2) the ability to understand opposing views in a manner acceptable to their proponents; (3) the careful analysis of arguments; (4) the capacity to cooperate with individuals holding different perspectives on the issue at hand; and (5) perceiving peers as potential collaborators rather than rivals. The proposed model has already been empirically tested in pilot research in 2021–2024.

Wednesday September 24 11:00 – 11:30 Room 3.01

Regular papers

The right to truth in the digital age: Argument-Checking as a means to preserve epistemic integrity

Federico Puppo, Serena Tomasi, Jean Wagemans

In recent decades, we have entered an era of hypertrophic communication, with tensions between freedom of speech and the right not to be deceived. Assessing the quality of argumentative exchanges plays a vital role in maintaining a balance between these fundamental rights. This paper presents the method of argument-checking as a means to determine such quality, focusing on its role in preserving people's 'epistemic integrity' in a digital society. The paper calls for institutional and educational interventions to foster a culture of truth and ensure that argumentation remains a tool for democratic deliberation rather than a vehicle for deception and division.

Friday September 26 11:30 – 12:00 Room 4.01

R

Inhospitable environments and the call of virtue

Tanuj Raut

According to normative contextualists (NC) in vice epistemology (Battaly 2018, Kidd 2020, McKenna 2023), facts about your social context (e.g. such as your social position vis-à-vis your interlocutors) can determine whether your character trait counts as a virtue or vice. Against this view, I raise two objections: (i) against NC, the difference made by facts about one's social context can be explained by the distinction between epistemic and prudential value, and (ii) in an epistemically inhospitable environment, NC verdicts often conflict with our intuitions about properties of virtuous agents. Ultimately, I show that vice epistemologists should reject NC.

Friday September 26 11:00 – 11:30 Room 4.04

From clue to culprit: epistemic conditionals in detective fiction

Alex Reunecker

Conditionals form an important ingredient of argumentation. Different argumentative uses have been distinguished (Reunecker 2022). Dancygier and Sweetser (2005) argue for a distinction between predictive (causal) conditionals, and non-predictive conditionals, such as epistemic conditionals, which present inferences from argument to conclusion. Dancygier and Sweetser hypothesize that epistemic conditionals are more frequently found in detective fiction than in other genres, because detectives reason not from cause to effect, but from evidence to conclusion. A corpus study was carried out to test this hypothesis. Furthermore, as such reasoning from clue to culprit can be viewed as ‘inference to the best explanation’ (Walton 2004), they are analysed in terms of deduction, induction and abduction to better understand how conditionals are used argumentatively.

Wednesday September 24 11:00 – 11:30 Room 4.02

Self-Diagnosing on TikTok and the reinvention of expertise: Are ADHD-influencers raising awareness or pathologizing an entire generation?

Dorthea Roe

TikTok has become a popular platform for sharing mental health content, especially about ADHD. This paper examines how non-medical actors present themselves as experts, using rhetorical strategies rooted in personal experience to gain trust. A rhetorical and textual analysis of TikTok-videos and comment sections explores how these actors construct “experiential expertise,” ranging from support of institutional knowledge to full rejection of it. The study does not evaluate factual accuracy but examines persuasive techniques and audience reception in relation to ethos. This research is important given rising ADHD referrals and the potential impact of misinformation on a young, vulnerable audience.

Thursday September 25 12:30 – 13:00 Room 3.01

Regular papers

Navigating Rhetoric Under Pressure: Argumentative Strategies in Competitive Debating

Kinga Rogowska, Marcin Będkowski

We examine the rhetorical strategies in competitive debates, focusing on constructing and critiquing four argument types: analogy, authority, consequences, and example. Data from the Competitive Debates Corpus reveals how argumentation schemes are influenced by the debaters' experience levels and the high-pressure environment of competitive debates. We also explore how debaters use critical questioning frameworks to challenge the validity of opponents' arguments. This interplay highlights the educational underpinnings of debate as a genre, where participants refine their ability to create and critique rhetorical structures. The findings advocate for a balanced approach to argumentation, where evidence-driven strategies complement heuristic reasoning, fostering both rhetorical efficacy and critical engagement.

Wednesday September 24 16:00 – 16:30 Room 3.01

Properties of multi-LLM persuasive dialogue

Artur Romazanov, Annette Hautli-Janisz

In this paper we report on the initial results of investigating the linguistic and argumentative properties of multi-LLM persuasive dialogue. In practice, two Large Language Models (LLMs) impersonate two friends who directly communicate and conduct theoretical and practical reasoning on different topics. The models are instructed to persuade the other side of their own preference, but depending on the actual prompt, the conversations result in compromises rather than in persuasions, showcasing that by default the models rather deliberate than persuade. We also show that the different stages of the conversations are marked by different argumentation patterns and linguistic properties that we compute automatically.

Thursday September 25 11:00 – 11:30 Room 3.12

Regular papers

Participatory health communication in a digital world

Maria Grazia Rossi, Dima Mohammed

Participatory approaches emphasise collaboration between the public and experts across healthcare policy, research, and practice. Medical argumentation has supported this shift, especially in interpersonal communication, by advancing shared decision-making frameworks. Public health communication, meanwhile, addresses trust and resistance in polarised contexts. Yet, the interplay between public and interpersonal health discourse remains underexplored. This paper investigates how digital expressions of medical scepticism reveal intersections between public controversies and clinical interactions. It argues that addressing patients' concerns in clinical settings may help reframe public debates. Using argumentation theory, we analyse medical scepticism as an interface between public and interpersonal discourse.

Wednesday September 24 12:00 – 12:30 Room 4.04

Pragma-Dialectical Analysis of Police Communication on Social Media

Roman Růžička

Digital platforms have reshaped how law enforcement interacts with the public. This paper analyzes Czech police communication on Facebook through pragma-dialectical argumentation theory, focusing on how argumentation builds trust, justifies actions, and manages criticism. It defines police communication as an institutional activity type shaped by persuasive and accountability goals, examining how platform constraints influence argumentative strategies. Using a case study of Facebook posts, the paper reconstructs dominant argumentation patterns and critical responses, showing how police balance institutional imperatives with dialectical reasonableness in the contested space of digital public discourse.

Friday September 26 12:30 – 13:00 Room 3.07

S

The Spade is fine; let's keep digging: On the Rational Resolvability of Deep Epistemic Disagreement.

Manuel Julio J Sanchis Ferrer

Deep epistemic disagreements (DEDs) are disagreements over fundamental epistemic principles, which have been claimed to be irresolvable through argumentation (Lynch 2010, 2016). In particular, Lynch defends that DEDs are such because the only argumentative tools available to disputants are epistemically circular arguments. In this talk, I will challenge that claim by showing that disputants in DEDs can resolve their disagreement by presenting arguments that expose inconsistencies within the other party's belief system. To support this, I will make some preliminary clarifications on the relationship between fundamental epistemic principles, epistemic circularity, and justification.

Friday, September 26 11:30 – 12:00 Room 3.07

Comparing 'whodunnit' hypotheses by human readers and Large Language Models

Ella Schad, Chris Reed

Our study examines how humans and LLMs generate hypotheses when interpreting crime narratives. Humans often identify useful information, but can be misled by red herrings; LLMs excel at detecting patterns, but have poor reasoning skills. We analyse the participants' reasoning across different narrative stages, comparing it with LLMs given the same data. We focus on the reasoning differences: how do humans and LLMs handle deceptive information, and are either able to detect crucial versus trivial data? While set in fictional domains, the findings have broader implications for hypothesis generation in real-world investigative contexts, where efficiently navigating complex data is vital.

Friday September 26 12:30 – 13:00 Room 3.12

Regular papers

How People React to Being Straw-maned. Empirical Evidence for the Non-persuasiveness of Straw Men on the Target

Jennifer Schumann, Scott Akin, John Casey

The paper experimentally tests the assumption that straw-manned individuals are not persuaded by the fallacy. The results confirm this, regardless of the argument's orientation. When factors such as the presence of a straw man, statement orientation, and political spectrum interact, differences in perception emerge. The experiment sheds light on the straw man's (in)effectiveness and shows how it is perceived by its target, supporting the view that it is not a persuasive move. It also shows that the statement's orientation, especially in combination with the participants' political spectrum, can partially nuance the observed effects.

Friday September 26 16:00 – 16:30 Room 4.04

Polarized arguments about vaccines: tracking modes of reasoning in response to digital influences

Joseph Schwartz, Michael Hoppmann

Vaccine reasoning plays a pivotal role in public discourse, especially in the United States amid heightened political polarization. This study analyzes how parents of school-aged children in Louisiana form and justify vaccination stances. In January 2025, we conducted 28 interviews (25–45 minutes each) examining attitudes toward vaccination, digital information sources, and reasons for acceptance, rejection, or ambivalence. Using a 17-scheme argumentation framework developed in prior studies of online misogynist communities and Colombian civil rights activists, we address three questions: (1) how parents reason about vaccines; (2) linguistic indicators for argument schemes; and (3) differences between this dataset and previous corpora. Findings will illuminate how sociocultural and informational contexts shape reasoning, aiding evaluation and intervention in vaccine-related discourse.

Wednesday September 24 11:30 – 12:00 Room 4.04

Regular papers

Argument Pessimism in the Age of AI

Blake D Scott

The increasing ubiquity of artificial intelligence in our everyday lives has led to widespread pessimism about the emancipatory potential of public argument – even among many deliberative democrats. While there are good reasons to fear this deepening technological colonization of our lifeworld, rhetoricians and argumentation theorists must nevertheless find ways to make the case for the power of argument. In this paper I re-examine Perelman’s reflections on an analogous pessimism about argument during the interwar period in Europe and consider how his response might guide our engagement with so-called persuasive technologies.

Friday September 26 11:00 – 11:30 Room 3.07

From argument to paragraph: Approaching academic writing through informal logic

Nina Shtok, Mitchell Thomas Welle

Our presentation addresses the challenges students face in academic writing (AW) due to insufficient critical thinking (CT) skills. First, we discuss the background of the issue to contextualize its relevance. Second, we present empirical data that illustrates the scope of the problem. Third, we offer a brief overview of existing AW textbooks, with a focus on their approach to CT skills. Finally, we introduce the starting point of a potential solution: building a paragraph from an argument. This involves making a distinction at two levels—argumentative and textual. The dual-level approach forms a novel foundation for teaching AW.

Friday September 26 12:30 – 13:00 Room 4.05

AI vs. Human Reasoning in Parole Decision-Making

Wassiliki Siskou, Karoline Reinhardt, Annette Hautli-Janisz

Artificial Intelligence is increasingly employed to support legal decision-making. We investigate to what extent LLMs can be used to assess an inmate's potential for being reintegrated into society. Our use case consists of 100 parole hearing transcripts from California, from which we exclude the final decision of the original commissioner and prompt three different LLMs to generate a decision statement. A manual analysis shows that while the models effectively replicate argumentation categories, their interpretation and weighing are frequently not aligned to those of human commissioners, thus raising concerns about the usage of AI in settings where the stakes are high.

Wednesday September 24 11:30 – 12:00 Room 4.02

AI as a Moral Agent? The Limits of ChatGPT's Argumentation

Bartłomiej Skowron, Bartosz Sawicki, Jarosław A. Chudziak

The concept of AI as a moral advisors has recently been explored by Lara and Deckers (2020). The authors propose that AI could enhance users' moral reasoning in key areas: improving conceptual clarity, understanding argumentative logic, testing whether one's judgment possesses ethical plausibility, raising awareness of personal limitations, and advising on executing one's decisions. In this paper, we examine whether ChatGPT—an intuitive candidate for the role of a moral advisor—could effectively fulfil these criteria as outlined by Lara and Deckers. For several reasons, we argue that ChatGPT's underlying technology prevents it from serving as an effective moral advisor.

Wednesday September 24 12:00 – 12:30 Room 4.02

Retrieval-augmented Generation for Immersive Formal Dialogue

Mark Snaith, Simon Wells

Large Language Models (LLMs) underpin tools like ChatGPT but often lack structure, coherence, and grounding. Formal dialogue games offer a structured framework for goal-driven conversation, but their use in real-world applications has typically led to rigid, unnatural exchanges. This paper proposes a hybrid approach: a Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG) pipeline that uses LLMs to produce natural responses aligned with formal dialogue structure and constrained by domain-specific knowledge. Supporting both structured (e.g. argument graphs) and unstructured (e.g. document-based) sources, the pipeline generates fluent, context-relevant utterances while preserving dialogue structure and ensuring responses remain grounded in the intended knowledge domain.

Friday September 26 11:00 – 11:30 Room 4.02

Critical questions and hateful speech: Operationalising a new definition to detect harmful distortions of arguments

Michał Stelmach, Maciej Kulik

The term “hate speech” was coined to designate offensive content and to develop strategies for counteracting its spread. However, the efficiency of current approaches remains limited, as their reliance on protected characteristics restricts the scope of inquiry. In this presentation, we provide an ethical definition of hateful speech as an alternative. For operationalisation, we draw on the notion of critical questions from argumentation theory, adapting it to the proposed ethical definition. This allows us to test our account empirically by formulating questions to determine whether an utterance meets each criterion and then applying them to specific utterances.

Wednesday September 24 12:00 – 12:30 Room 4.01

Navigating Standing Issues in Argumentation with Analogous Narratives

Katharina Stevens

I use enthymematic analogous anecdotes to show how recent insights about the relationship between argumentation, autonomy and standing complicate argument evaluation. Enthymematic analogous anecdotes are personal narratives, used to support a point about the addressee's analogous personal decision or situation, where the story's argumentative nature remains ambiguous. The received understanding of argumentation's relationship to autonomy treats these arguments as what Govier calls illegitimate "packing strategies". However, where the arguer lacks standing to argue, but the argument contains reasons important for the addressee to know, using ambiguous arguments may be the best among bad options and should count as "good" arguing.

Thursday September 25 12:30 – 13:00 Room 4.05

Petitionary prayer as a speech act and an argumentative discourse

Iva Svačinová

This paper presents petitionary prayer as a dialogical interaction between a person and a divine entity, using a pragma-dialectical approach to argumentation. The study models prayer as a social interaction where the human petitioner supports their requests with arguments, anticipating potential divine doubts. Conceptualizing prayer as a complex speech act, the research defines specific felicity conditions for prayer requests, which indicate potential criticism. The study analyzes authentic prayers from a digital platform, "The Prayer Wall," to reconstruct these prayers as preliminary argumentative responses to anticipated divine doubts about fulfilling these conditions.

Thursday September 25 9:00 – 9:30 Room 4.05

The Walton Classifier: Automated detection of argument schemes in natural language and dialectical exchange

Asma Tajuddin

Identifying argument schemes in natural language remains a significant challenge due to the complexity of human reasoning. A key approach to addressing this challenge is analyzing argument patterns with the schemes using critical questions. However, argument schemes do not work in isolation—they function within different dialogues. This paper presents a classifier, the Walton Classifier, an automated system that detects argumentation schemes using critical questions and validates the argument type. Unlike traditional manual argument mapping/analysis tools such as Araucaria, Rationale, OVA, Carneades etc., the Walton Classifier provides a fully automated approach, making it an effective solution for real-time argument analysis.

Wednesday September 24 11:30 – 12:00 Room 4.05

LLM-Powered Chatbots' Deductive Reasoning and Argumentation Evaluation

Marcin Trepczyński

It is not controversial that chatbots powered by Large Language Models can create reasonable and sound argumentation. Problems may occur when they are asked to construct formally correct deductive reasoning based on more abstract concepts or evaluate advanced argumentation. In my paper, I would like to present results of my study aimed at testing the capacities of the leading LLM-powered chatbots (including ChatGPT and Gemini) with respect to the above-mentioned skills: 1) creating deductive reasoning which links two different statements and 2) evaluation of complex argumentation. The tasks are limited to the scope of theology, which makes them harder, because they have to operate on abstract concepts within certain hermeneutical frameworks. An additional challenge was to apply a complex framework for the assessment of a reasoning which is the classification created in the Lvov-Warsaw schools and finally formulated by Tadeusz Czeżowski (which distinguishes between two deductive kinds of reasoning: inference, proving, and two reductive ones: explanation and testing). Although the chatbots succeeded in giving satisfactory results, such testing provided us with many interesting conclusions about their limitations.

Friday September 26 11:00 – 11:30 Room 3.12

Regular papers

Exploiting the topical potential of meme templates: advocates and skeptics arguing about the environment through image macros

Assimakis Tseronis

This paper examines how meme templates serve as vehicles for argumentation and debate in online climate change discussions. By analysing popular meme templates such as Condescending Wonka and Matrix Morpheus, the study explores how both climate advocates and skeptics creatively adapt these recognizable structures to advance their viewpoints and engage in rhetorical strategies. Drawing on multimodal semiotics and argumentation theory, the presentation explores how meme templates afford arguments, by providing a recognizable framework that can be easily adapted by each party, while at the same time impose constraints on their interpretation, by limiting the range of appropriate or coherent uses for each side.

Thursday September 25 11:00 – 11:30 Room 4.07

U

Argument Evaluation Profiles: A Multicriteria Approach

Mariusz Urbanski, Joanna Barszcz

We introduce argument evaluation profiles, a structured method for assessing arguments across multiple criteria. We start with the idea that evaluating arguments involves trade-offs and cannot maximise every criterion. The framework builds on a normative account of argument quality and uses a dominance relation. Multi-objective optimisation applies Pareto optimality to identify arguments that cannot improve in one dimension without worsening another. Case studies in public argumentation demonstrate how this multicriteria approach yields nuanced, context-sensitive judgments of argumentative strength. It emphasises setting priorities, weighting factors, and sometimes aggregating scores across criteria, balancing trade-offs.

Wednesday September 24 15:00 – 15:30 Room 3.12

Regular papers

Between the concrete and the abstract: accusations, values, and positions in a post-disaster controversy

Mehmet Ali Üzelgün

Social media platforms have become the privileged venues for extending criticisms, producing justifications, and forming opinions on issues of common concern. Thanks also to platform algorithms, virtually all issues are transformed into and participated in as controversies. A recent proposal in argumentation studies in this regard concerns the system-level or macro-scale argument (Goodwin, 2020), developed on the micro-scale of premise-conclusion structures and meso-scale of argumentative interactions. Macro arguments can be useful tools in summarizing and analyzing societal debates and controversies. This study is an attempt to address Goodwin's call to elaborate on the relationship between system-level abstract arguments and their concrete instantiations. To that end, we draw on the notions of position and claim (Gilbert, 2016), respectively, and examine how positions are negotiated in a post-disaster context of controversy. The study focuses on the social media debate on the 2017 Pedrógão Grande wildfire, which turned out to be the deadliest disaster in the country's recent history, with significant political consequences, including high-level resignations.

Thursday September 25 12:30 – 13:00 Room 3.07

V

Argument Models in Education: A Design-Based Research Approach to Enhancing Students' Argumentation Skills in German Lessons

Ina Völker, Kati Hannken-Illjes, Cordula Schwarze

Educational institutions play a central role in fostering reasoning skills and the ability to make informed, rational judgments. One fundamental method to teaching argumentation is the use of structured argument models. This paper presents a design-based study investigating whether teaching different argument models affects students' argumentation performance. Specifically, the study compares a model used in German classes called "BBB", consisting of claim, premise and example, with the classical threefold model. Based on a pilot study conducted in three schools, initial findings are presented.

Wednesday September 24 15:30 – 16:00 Room 3.01

Regular papers

Do You Need Reason to Commit a Fallacy? On Fallacies in Human-AI Interaction

Viktorija Völker

Generative AI disrupts the very notion of fallacy. AI does not reason; it predicts. Yet its polished outputs persuade users, who often treat statistical fluency as epistemic authority. This paper argues that fallacies in human-AI interaction do not reside in the machine, but in our trust in its rhetorical form. Such “algorithmic fallacies” demand that argumentation theory move beyond traditional models of flawed reasoning, reframing error as a product of human-AI entanglement rather than individual cognitive failure.

Wednesday September 24 12:30 – 13:00 Room 4.01

W

Analogical Adjudication in the Age of Artificial Intelligence: An Argument Scheme-Driven Framework

Bin Wang

Consistent judgments in similar cases hinge on similarity assessment via analogical argumentation, which, through analytical frameworks, breaks down into quantitative, relevant, and determinative similarity—answering "Where does similarity lie?", "What kind is it?", and "Why is there similarity?" respectively. AI precisely quantifies case similarities via numerical calculations, enabling intelligent case recommendations to some extent. Yet judicial value judgments remain essential for both; legal AI converts these to empirical ones, offering limited guidance but no replacement for judges' substantive standards in analogical reasoning. Thus, case-based AI tools assist in analogical reasoning but have clear limits, failing to eliminate reasonable judicial disparities.

Wednesday September 24 15:30 – 16:00 Room 4.05

MacIntyre's Virtues of Dependence and Independence: An Application to Argumentation

Yiran Wang, Zihan Niu

This paper argues that Virtue Argumentation Theory (VAT) can benefit from MacIntyre's insight in *Dependent Rational Animals*, which emphasizes that moral development and rational growth fundamentally depend on communal support and individuals' acknowledgment of their own dependence. This perspective enriches our understanding of virtue argumentation as inherently interactive rather than isolated. Within argumentative contexts, virtues of dependence and independence manifest clearly in both argument production and reception. An ideal arguer effectively balances personal dependence and independence while simultaneously recognizing and respecting the dependence and independence of other participants. This paper systematically examines virtues that facilitate these essential interactions.

Thursday September 25 9:30 – 10:00 Room 3.01

Too Dreadful to be Possible: Alan Turing's "Heads in the Sand" Objection as a Strategic Move

Karol Wapniarski, Pawel Lupkowski, Tomáš Ondráček

In our paper, we examine the ethical discourse surrounding Autonomous Vehicles (AVs) through the lens of Turing's "Heads in the Sand" Objection (HSO). We argue that much of the debate has been shaped more by emotional reactions than by rational deliberation. By analyzing both academic literature and popular media, we demonstrate that the HSO strategy underlies many arguments in the AV debate. Recognizing HSO-like arguments allows us to classify segments of the debate as emotionally driven rather than rationally grounded. We identify three recurring strategies employed to circumvent unresolved ethical dilemmas: legal reductionism, engineering pragmatism, and the social contract approach.

Thursday September 25 9:00 – 9:30 Room 4.07

Regular papers

A Pluralistic View of Validity

Xuefeng Wen, Yanan Liu

Premises of arguments can be treated as beliefs, assertions, or suppositions, which leads to different results of validity for the same form of argument. This ambiguity can be formalized in a systematic way, by either defining three notions of validity, or combining all the three into one but turning the binary logical consequence into a quaternary one, or stick to the orthodox notion of validity by extending our object language to make the different treatments of the premises explicit. This refined framework under the pluralistic perspective enables us to bridge the gap between formal logic and arguments in natural language.

Wednesday September 24 11:30 – 12:00 Room 3.12

That Feels Convincing: A Taxonomy of Pathotic Argumentation Quality

Dexter Williams

What is a good emotional argument? In studies of argumentation quality, pathos has been viewed as a dimension of argumentation that impacts quality, but not as the object of argumentation itself. This is at odds with theoretical works that raise the status of pathos and allow for a distinct kind of argumentation about emotion. In this work, I explore the concept of pathotic argumentation quality and the dimensions of pathotic argumentation are considered when assessing its quality. I reexamine the role of pathos in argumentation quality, provide a taxonomy for its study, and survey the methods for assessing it.

Friday September 26 12:00 – 12:30 Room 4.07

Regular papers

The Reflexivity of Argument and the Ambitions of Multimodality

Harald R. Wohlrapp

The “multimodal argument” (MMA) demands a thorough and rigorous reconsideration of the concept of argument. (1) The Revisionism-Non-Revisionism-Debate is inappropriate. (2) MMA is not by itself an argument but an item of seemingly semiotic nature which can be interpreted as an argument. (3) That interpretation can only be safeguarded by argumentation. (4) This shows that argumentation (in the verbal mode) has a reflective potential: It can bow back to itself, correct itself, it can enhance itself and create grades of advancement. (5) Argumentation’s reflective character can be modeled by revealing in it a stratified structure of interacting object- and meta-levels.

Wednesday, September 24 16:00 – 16:30 Room 4.07

Y

International Debate on History: Strategies for Interpretative Argumentation of Historical Events

Olena Yaskorska-Shah

Historical facts are usually not subjects of debate in public discussions. However, the interpretation of these facts plays a crucial role in civil discourse. The purpose of this paper is to show the debate over the interpretation of shared history between Ukraine and Russia. The analysis is made on three levels: (1) text parsing based on thematic topics, structured as thesis-and-critique pairs; (2) Debate mapping, representing the argumentative structures and techniques used by the speakers to construct their arguments; (3) Key cognitive aspects of discourse, including shared mental models of history within different discourse communities.

Friday September 26 16:00 – 16:30 Room 4.05

Regular papers

Straw man, steel man, and accurate representation: experimental evidence on the rhetorical effects of reformulation practices

Ramy Younis

Previous research in argumentation has examined distortions of the opposition—particularly the straw man—and recently provided experimental evidence on their persuasive effects. By contrast, little empirical attention has been given to the inverse practice of accurately restating an opponent’s contribution. The effects of faithful and inaccurate representations on speaker ethos and perceived reasonableness also remain underexplored. This paper addresses these gaps through three pre-registered experiments comparing accurate reformulation, misrepresentation, and no reformulation of an opponent’s contribution. Results indicate that misrepresenting the opposition negatively affects trustworthiness and reasonableness judgments, highlighting rhetorical costs associated with violations of dialectical standards.

Friday September 26 11:30 – 12:00 Room 4.04

Argument schemes, types, and implicit information

Shiyang Yu, Frank Zenker

Having multiple scheme variants for the same argument type (e.g., the expert opinion argument) indicates our field lacks a guiding scheme-construction principle. Argument schemes must primarily enable natural or artificial agents to correctly identify a token’s argument type (using a minimal scheme), while argument token-evaluation (using an extended scheme) is a secondary, derivative task. Conflating both tasks, we claim, explains disagreements over the elements an argument scheme must include. As a theoretically motivated scheme-construction principle, we propose that, given a hearer’s ability to infer implicit information, a class of minimal schemes may enable argument-type identification without demanding a unique scheme.

Thursday September 25 11:00 – 11:30 Room 3.01

Z

In freedom of expression we trust (?). Meta platform and argumentative shifts

Maria Ząteńska

The paper examines the shifts in Mark Zuckerberg's approach to freedom of expression between his 2019 Georgetown address and Meta's 2025 termination of third-party fact-checking in the USA. Using the rhetorical and argumentation studies framework, the analysis identifies a transformation from institutional legitimacy (free expression anchored in independent oversight) to populist legitimacy based on public distrust of centralized moderation. Eristic tactics escalated from subtle reframing and strategic vagueness to overt delegitimization, appeals to popularity, and false dilemmas. The study contributes to argumentation theory by elucidating how governance design and rhetorical strategies co-evolve, conditioning both the type and intensity of manipulative discourse.

Thursday September 25 9:30 – 10:00 Room 4.02

On the Status of Knowledge in Pragmadiagnostics

Tomasz Zarębski

This presentation examines the view on knowledge in the pragmadiagnostic process, starting from the view of the classical theory of knowledge. Classical epistemology views knowledge as Justified True Belief (JTB), but 20th-century critiques—such as Brandom's inferentialism—downplay “truth” in favour of justification. Pragmadiagnostics, in turn, seeks consensus rather than truth, assuming fallibilism. Yet in complex fields like law, medicine, or science, interlocutors may be unable to judge justifications while still wishing to take a stance. Here, I claim, adhering to procedural rules offers a minimal reason to tentatively accept a view, while violations of these rules count against acceptance.

Thursday September 25 9:30 – 10:00 Room 3.07

Regular papers

Pivotal Problems for a Theory of Argument Schemes

Frank Zenker

While argumentation schemes are vital for analyzing natural language discourse, research remains divided between bottom-up (empirical) and top-down (theoretical) approaches, lacking a unified theory. As this hinders progress (including in AI training), we review key unresolved problems impeding unification: the incompleteness of existing scheme lists; unclear taxonomic principles and relationships between schemes; ambiguity over necessary/sufficient scheme elements; false premises in deductive schemes; and issues surrounding critical questions (CQs)—including their form, function, origin, ranking, and the possibility of complete argument evaluation. Raised awareness of these problems as standard should guide future research toward a unified theory of argument schemes.

Wednesday September 24 12:00 – 12:30 Room 4.05

Implicatures of Questions in Political Debates: Structures and Functions

Daniel Ziembicki

Implicatures of questions play a significant role in political discourse, where speakers often rely on indirectness to make assertions. Some of these implicatures take the form of deontic judgments, e.g.: (1) And why hasn't she made the agreements better? [US2016] → She should have made better agreements. To better understand this mechanism, we pose the following research questions: (A) What types and subtypes of implicatures can be distinguished in questions functioning as premises or conclusions in political debates? (B) Do questions introducing normative content differ from other types of implicatures, and if so, in what way?

Thursday September 25 11:30 – 12:00 Room 4.05

Diagrams of argumentation in moral issues

Jacek Ziobrowski

The theory of argumentation seems to assume a foundationalist understanding of the structure of justification. Sometimes the opinion that a given belief can only be justified by beliefs that are more plausible is associated with this understanding. The indicated assumption and opinion are largely inaccurate. The paper will graphically present selected models of the structure of justification and modifications of argument diagramming showing two-sided and coherence relations of justification usually ignored in studies on argumentation theory.

Thursday September 25 9:00 – 9:30 Room 4.02

Neuro-argumentation: The Role of Neuroimaging Techniques in Studying Argumentation

Igor Ž. Žagar

In this paper, I would like to revisit my research findings on (non-existence of) visual arguments from the first (Lisbon, 2015) and the second (Fribourg, 2017) ECA conferences. This time, I would like to revisit the "Fribourg study" using neurosensors: eye-tracker, Galvanic Skin Response and Emotional Face Recognition. These neuro tools were used on two groups of students: one was presented with original visuals, and for the second group, all verbal cues were removed. The results demonstrate the intricate ways in which the human cognitive apparatus interprets visuals, where their argumentative function is narrowly dependent on verbal cues.

Friday September 26 12:30 – 13:00 Room 4.07

Participants

Mark Aakhus	School of Communication & Information
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Daniel Ziembicki	University of Warsaw
David Zikowitz	University of Trento
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PRACTICAL INFORMATION

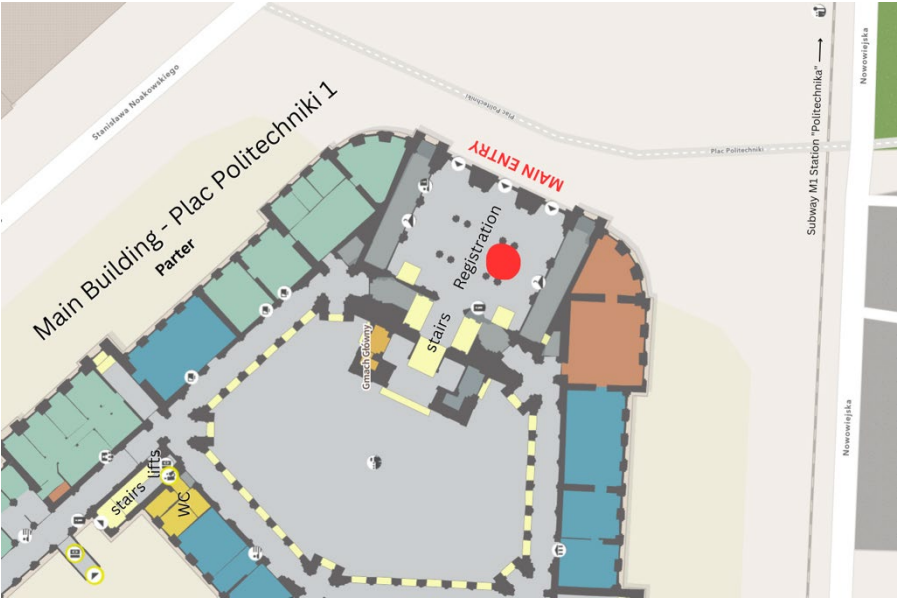
ECA 2025 venues

1. ITC Hall (patio Instytutu Techniki Ciepłej/Institute of Heat Technology) – address: Nowowiejska 21/25 – ground floor / parter – **reception, coffee breaks and lunches, poster session, conference closing**
2. Main building – address: Plac Politechniki 1 – **registration** (ground floor / parter), **keynotes, conference opening** (second floor - Small Auditorium / Mała Aula, room 237)
3. Address: Rektorska 4 – **parallel sessions** – third floor, fourth floor

Nowowiejska

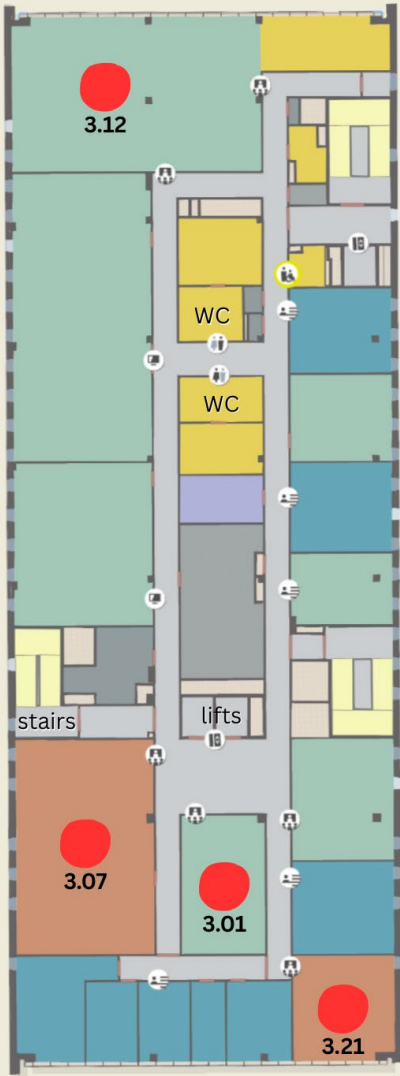
ITC (Nowowiejska 21/25) - Reception, Coffee
Breaks & Lunches, Conference Closing
Parter





Rektorska 4 - Parallel sessions

III. floor



Subway M1 Station "Politechnika" →



Programme

ECA 2025 – GENERAL PROGRAMME

For a detailed version of the programme and parallel sessions, please visit our website:



DAY 1 – Tuesday, September 23

15.30-17.00	registration (location: in front of Small Auditorium)
17.00-17.15	opening (location: Small Auditorium)
17.15-18.30	Keynote 1: Miriam Metzger (location: Small Auditorium)
18.30-20.00	welcome reception (location: ITC hall)

Programme

DAY 2 – Wednesday, September 24

9.00 - 10.15 Keynote 2: Dawn Archer (location: Small Auditorium)

10.15 - 11.00 coffee break (location: ITC hall)

11.00 – 13.00 parallel sessions (location: Rektorska 4)

13.00 – 14.30 lunch (location: ITC hall)

14.30 – 16.30 parallel sessions (location: Rektorska 4)

16.30 – 17.15 coffee break (location: ITC hall)

17.15 – 18.15 parallel sessions (location: Rektorska 4)

Programme

DAY 3 – Thursday, September 25

9.00 - 10.00 parallel sessions (location: Rektorska 4)

10.00 - 11.00 coffee break (location: ITC hall)

11.00 – 13.00 parallel sessions (location: Rektorska 4)

13.00 – 14.30 lunch (location: ITC hall)

14.30 – 17.00 parallel sessions (location: Rektorska 4)

17.00 - 18.15 ECA poster session & coffee break (location: ITC hall)

19.00 – 23.00 Gala dinner
(location: AleGloria restaurant, address: Pl. Trzech Krzyży 3)

Programme

DAY 4 – Friday, September 26

9.00 - 10.15 Keynote 3: Jean Goodwin (Small Auditorium)

10.15 - 11.00 coffee break (location: ITC hall)

11.00 – 13.00 parallel sessions (location: Rektorska 4)

13.00 – 14.30 lunch (location: ITC hall)

14.30 – 16.30 parallel sessions (location: Rektorska 4)

16.30 – 17.15 Reception & conference closing (location: ITC hall)

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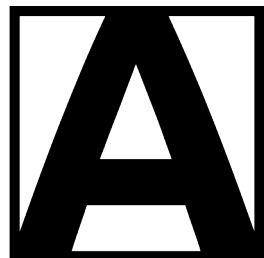
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