



The European Conference on Argumentation (ECA) is a pan-European biennial initiative aiming to consolidate and advance various strands of research on argumentation and reasoning by gathering scholars from a range of disciplines. After a successful 1st edition held in Lisbon in 2015, ECA will be hosted in 2017 by the Department of English at the University of Fribourg, Switzerland. While based in Europe, ECA involves and encourages participation from argumentation scholars all over the world.

Special Theme: *Argumentation and inference*

In addition to welcoming submissions linked to argumentation studies in general, each ECA edition has a special theme. While the 1st edition of ECA was devoted to exploring the relationship between argumentation and the decisions that follow from it, the 2017 Fribourg edition will focus on the cognitive processes involved in argumentation, with a clear focus on **inference** as one of the key features of the argumentative process. Argumentation studies have increasingly expanded over the last decades with a clear opening towards cognitive science, and we accordingly believe that the time is ripe to ground a discussion in the community around the notion of inference, along its formal, social and cognitive dimensions. The overarching questions the conference theme will be concerned with are therefore the following: How does the study of argumentation connect with the notion of inference and how, as a discipline, does it connect with the disciplines involved in the study of the cognitive features of inference? Granting, of course, that we take argumentation to be the verbal and social manifestation of inferential processes, we are particularly seeking contributions focusing on the ins and outs of (i) how reasoning, but more generally inference, influences and constrains argument production and (ii) which (and how) inferential processes are involved in argument reception, thus covering cognitive tasks such as understanding and accepting.

To foster this discussion, the conference seeks to attract scholars in argumentation coming from a range of different traditions, including (but not limited to) philosophy, psychology, linguistics, informal logic, speech communication, pragma-dialectics, epistemic approaches, rhetoric, dialectics, logic, and computational approaches. The lines of inquiry promoted for ECA 2017 in Fribourg are the following, but this indicative list is neither exhaustive nor limitative:

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| -inferential processes in argument production | -cognitive states as motivations to argue |
| -typology of argumentative inferences | -pedagogy and inference in critical thinking |
| - <i>topoi</i> and argument schemes | -rhetorical strategies |
| -qualifiers | -inference and persuasion |
| -types of inference linked to types of arguments | -political argumentation |
| -comprehension and acceptance | -stylistic effects |
| -understanding and believing | -inferences linked to figures of speech |
| -fallacies and cognitive biases in argumentation | -inference in argumentative decision-making |
| -formal models of inference | -quality of deliberation |
| -computational models of inference | -developmental views on inference and argumentation |
| -automatic recognition of argumentative inferences | -reflective and intuitive inference in argumentation |
| -the relationship between norms and inference | -relationships between culture (and social context) |
| -social cognition and argumentation | -inference in argumentative contexts. |

Submissions from students and young scholars are encouraged. To this end, ECA has established the [Frans van Eemeren Prize](#) for Outstanding Student Paper sponsored by Springer. The winning paper will be awarded a 500 € (around 575 US\$) cash prize and additional 300 € (around 345 US\$) in books from Springer's catalogue.

Confirmed keynote speakers

- [Ulrike HAHN](#), *Birkbeck, University of London, UK*
- [Sally JACKSON](#), *University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA*
- [Johan VAN BENTHEM](#), *University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands*
- [Deirdre WILSON](#), *University College London, UK & University of Oslo, Norway*

Location

Fribourg is a charming medieval university town in central Switzerland, ideally situated half-way between Geneva and Zürich – train connections from both airports are therefore easy, frequent and efficient. The city is officially fully bilingual (French, German) and is considered as the crossroads between French and German Switzerland. The region is, expectedly, well-known for its cheese (Gruyère cheese actually comes from the region of Gruyères, a half-hour drive from Fribourg) and its chocolate. More information here: <http://www.fribourgtourisme.ch/en/Visitez-la-ville-fribourg.html>. Information on the venue (Faculty of Arts and Humanities) will be posted on our website in due time.

Abstract submission

The Programme Committee and Organising Committee invite 4 types of original submissions, defined as follows:

- 1) Long paper (with commentator)
Submit an **extended abstract** (min. 1'000, max. 1'500 words), ready for double-blind reviewing. Each accepted paper will then have to be submitted prior to the conference (see important dates below) and will have a commentator assigned. Authors will be allocated longer slots (\pm 45 min.). Published long papers will be within the 5'000-7'000 word range (incl. references and footnotes).
- 2) Regular paper (without commentator)
Submit a **regular abstract** (min. 300, max. 500 words) ready for double-blind reviewing. For authors of accepted regular papers there is no need to submit them in advance, and there will be no commentator. Authors will be allocated shorter slots (\pm 25 min.). Published regular papers will be within the 3'500-5'000 word range (incl. references and footnotes).
- 3) Thematic panel/symposium
A **thematic panel/symposium** is expected to be directly related to the main theme of the conference. Panels should allow 3 to 5 speakers to present and will last between 90 and 150 min. They may include a panel respondent (panel organiser(s) or someone invited by the panel organiser(s)). Panel proposals are submitted by the panel organiser. They should be prepared for double-blind reviewing and include a title, a description of the panel, including its connection to the conference theme (300-500 words), the titles and abstracts of all contributions to the panel (300-500 words each) and the name of the respondent if applicable. Published panel/symposium papers will be within the 3'500-5'000 word range (incl. references and footnotes). Please note that all abstracts in the panel/symposium should also be individually submitted by their authors as 'Regular papers'; this must be done by ticking the option "My paper is part of a thematic panel/symposium" which will be available in the submission system under the abstract box.
- 4) Poster
Submit a **regular abstract** (min. 300, max. 500 words) ready for double-blind reviewing. For authors of accepted posters there is no need to submit them in advance. Posters will neither be assigned a commentator nor published. A poster session will be organised in a dedicated time slot during the conference. Please prepare a printed A1 poster and not a hand-written one.

Submission policies

Please bear in mind the following policies as you submit your abstract:

- Submissions may be singly or jointly authored.
- Authors may submit more than one abstract, but this is discouraged and will be taken into account when accepting papers.
- Authors can only appear as main author once, as the conference policy is 'one abstract-one registration'. The only exception to this is when an author presents a panel contribution and an individual paper (long, regular or poster).
- Submissions must be anonymous. That is, the abstract cannot contain any information by which the author(s) can be identified, e.g., no author names.
- All abstracts will be double-blind peer reviewed for their overall quality and relevance to the conference by the members of the Scientific Committee (see below).
- All abstracts must be submitted on EasyChair by **1 October 2016**, 23:59 (UTC + 01:00) on the following link (available as of 8 July 2016): <https://easychair.org/conferences/?conf=eca2017>
- Notification of acceptance/rejection will be sent by **early December 2016**

Conference fees

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| • Early bird (by 28 February 2017) | Faculty | 260.- CHF | (± 270 US\$/235 €) |
| | PhD Student | 150.- CHF | (± 155 US\$/135 €) |
| • Regular (by 15 April 2017) | Faculty | 330.- CHF | (± 345 US\$ / 300 €) |
| | PhD Student | 210.- CHF | (± 220 US\$ / 190 €) |

The fees include all conference material, lunches, coffee breaks and welcoming reception on the first evening of the conference and administrative costs. A conference dinner is planned at an extra fee of 50.- CHF.

Registration (including fee payment) will be open to accepted participants in early 2017.

ECA summer school

The 1st ECA summer school will take place in **Lugano** prior to the ECA conference, from 16 to 19 June. More information will be posted on the ECA website in due time.

Important dates

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| • Abstract submission deadline: | 1 October 2016 |
| • Notification of acceptance/rejection: | early December 2016 |
| • Early-bird registration: | 28 February 2017 |
| • Final registration: | 15 April 2017 |
| • Submission of long papers to commentators: | 15 April 2017 |
| • Conference in Fribourg: | 20-23 June 2017 |

Publication

Authors of all accepted papers (including those in thematic panels) and keynote addresses will be invited to publish them in conference proceedings. Proceedings will be published as a printed volume by [College Publications](#) as well as online, with authors being able to distribute their individual papers as open access downloads.

Organising committee

Steve OSWALD, chair (University of Fribourg), Didier MAILLAT (University of Fribourg), Marcin LEWIŃSKI (Universidade Nova de Lisboa, Portugal), Andrea ROCCI (Università della Svizzera Italiana), Sara RUBINELLI (University of Luzern)

Programme committee

Jean GOODWIN, PC chair (Iowa State University, USA), Sara RUBINELLI, PC secretary (University of Luzern, Switzerland), Jan Albert VAN LAAR (University of Groningen, The Netherlands), Fabio PAGLIERI (ISTC-CNR, Rome, Italy)

ECA steering committee

Fabio PAGLIERI, chair (ISTC-CNR, Rome, Italy), Jan Albert VAN LAAR, deputy chair (University of Groningen, The Netherlands), Lilian BERMEJO LUQUE (University of Granada, Spain), Katarzyna BUDZYŃSKA (Polish Academy of Sciences, Poland), Henrike JANSEN (University of Leiden, The Netherlands) Marcin KOSZOWY (University of Białystok, Poland), Marcin LEWIŃSKI (Universidade Nova de Lisboa, Portugal), Dima MOHAMMED (Universidade Nova de Lisboa, Portugal), Steve OSWALD (University of Fribourg, Switzerland), Juho RITOLA (University of Turku, Finland), Sara RUBINELLI (University of Lucerne, Switzerland), Frank ZENKER (University of Lund, Sweden)

Scientific panel (TBA)