

ECA2017 – Last newsletter before the conference, June 2nd, 2017

Dear ECA2017 participants,

The conference is now only days away. As we are finalising everything to welcome you in Fribourg, we wanted to let you know about the latest developments.

1. Last minute change in keynote speaker: Dan Sperber (Central European University, Budapest)

Deirdre Wilson was unfortunately forced to withdraw from the conference a couple of weeks ago. Luckily for us, Dan Sperber has accepted our invitation to deliver the opening keynote lecture in her stead, and we are very grateful that he will be coming to ECA2017 to discuss his views on reasoning and argumentation.

2. Last minute funding for PhD students

We are delighted to announce that some last minute funding came in and that we are therefore going to be able to give all registered PhD students a partial refund of the conference fees, in the form of a cash reimbursement on site (PhD students should check at the conference desk for details upon registration). The ECA initiative was launched with the idea of finding ways to support the younger generation of argumentation scholars, so we are extremely happy about this last minute discount scheme (kudos to the Research Pool of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities in Fribourg!).

3. Book of abstract and programme

The detailed conference programme and the book of abstracts are now online (www.ecargument.org). The book of abstracts contains additional information on the venue and the social programme. As this is not the printed version yet, there is still room for improvement. If you spot any typos or missing information, please let us know **before Tuesday, June 6!** The same goes for the programme: we have tried to ensure as much as possible thematic coherence and accommodate time constraints, but please let us know if you find typos and other errors in it.

4. Session chairs

The chairing system we have decided to adopt is the following:

- for long papers, we ask the commentator to chair the paper s/he is commenting on. The time structure of long paper sessions is: 25 min. presentation + 10 min. commentary + 20 min. question time, and 5 min. for moving from one room to another
- for regular papers, we ask the 2nd speaker of the session to chair the talk of the 1st speaker of the session, and the 1st speaker to chair the rest of the session. The format is 20 min. for presentation, 5 min. for questions and 5 min. for moving from one room to another
- for panels, panel conveners will be chairing the whole panel. Panels are composed of 5 half-hour slots.

We kindly ask participants to check the programme to see whether they will be chairing sessions. We also kindly ask chairs to be punctual and to keep track of time so that participants are able to move between rooms at the end of each session. This is crucial, so please do not hesitate to enforce strict time management. This is Switzerland and we have punctuality standards to live up to! Joking aside, we thank you in advance and appreciate your support with this, since much of the conference's success rests on effective chairing.

5. Posters

We ask poster presenters to print an **A0 portrait** version of their poster for display. A4 open envelopes will be pinned at the bottom of the poster boards with the idea of allowing you to bring smaller versions of your posters, should you want to distribute them as a handout. Please check-in at the conference desk upon arrival – our staff will point you in the right direction so you can put your poster on display (main hallway, on the 1st floor of the building).

6. Book exhibit

Some participants have asked us whether they could have their books on display. We have arranged a book exhibit on the ground floor of the venue. Next to the official publishers' displays, there will now be an unmanned table for ECA2017 participants' own monographs and edited works (for display only, not for sale). If this is an option you'd like to take advantage of, please let us know (ecafribourg2017@gmail.com) and either bring your own copy of your book or make arrangements for it to be sent to Steve Oswald, English Domain, University of Fribourg, Av. De l'Europe 20, CH-1700 Fribourg, Switzerland **before June 15, 2017**.

As always, all relevant information on the conference is available at www.ecargument.org. We are very much looking forward to welcoming you in Fribourg soon!

All best wishes,

Steve Oswald, for the ECA2017 Organising Committee