

Conference ARGAGE 2018

(www.argage2018.usi.ch)

Argumentation & Language

Second Edition

7-9 February 2018

Università della Svizzera italiana

Lugano

The ARGAGE steering committee is pleased to announce that the second edition of the conference “Argumentation & Language” will take place from 7 to 9 of February 2018 at USI - Università della Svizzera italiana in Lugano, Switzerland.

In line with the previous edition, we wish to attract scholars who are interested in the relation between language and argumentation, and who analyse this relation in a variety of communication domains and settings of social interaction.

Building on the success of the first ARGAGE conference, held at the University of Lausanne in 2015, we would like to further explore the intersections of argumentative and language practices. We therefore encourage submissions dealing with the interrelations between language (its units, its levels, its functions and modes of processing) and the way argumentation functions. Contributions must be related to *at least one* of the following five research axes:

1. *Argumentation in spoken interaction*

In spoken interaction, argumentation is co-constructed by two or more persons and unfolds in tight connection with the management of dialogic interaction at various levels, from turns, topics and sequences to stance and face. Moreover, the combination between linguistic and multimodal resources raises specific problems in a range of different communicative settings. The conference welcomes contributions describing spoken argumentative discourse in professional and institutional activities as well as in domestic or other informal contexts. We also encourage papers that address the methodological problem of how argumentative features can be detected and analysed in interaction and papers that propose applied integrations of Argumentation Theory, Discourse Analysis and Conversation Analysis.

2. *Semantics and argumentation*

A second specific focus of this conference will be the relation between semantic analysis and argumentation. Possible research topics include (but are not limited to) the application of formal semantic approaches to the description of argument schemes and dialogue; the link between lexical meaning and norms/values in argumentation; the theoretical relation between basic categories of linguistic meaning (such as causality, negation or modality) and argumentative structures; the relevance of semantic analysis to the normative assessment of reasoning. We also welcome contributions studying the interplay, in argumentation, between explicitly coded meaning and inference from a cognitive perspective.

3. *Argumentative indicators*

In line with the previous edition of ARGAGE, we maintain a strong focus on linguistic markers functioning as argumentative indicators, which represent a key aspect of the language embeddedness of argumentation. We welcome contributions that describe linguistic structures under the aspect of how these enhance our understanding of argumentative discourse. Authors are also invited to present discourse analytical studies of argumentative texts focusing on the role(s) of linguistic markers.

4. *Corpora annotation and argumentation*

The analysis of digital text corpora is, on one hand, a fundamental instrument of linguistic description, which raises specific methodological problems when the to-be-described linguistic structures are tightly interrelated with partly implicit text structures and rhetorical situations. This is the case of discourse markers in general and of argumentative indicators in particular. We invite contributions that address such methodological problems, from the retrieval of argumentatively relevant structures in texts to their manual or automatic annotation and the quantitative interpretation of annotated data. On the other hand, digital texts are the target of opinion retrieval and argument mining. In this applied perspective, the annotation of argumentative indicators and structures in corpora must be interrogated as to its usefulness in the training phase and application of automatic information retrieval systems. We invite all kinds of contributions about argument mining and annotation in this quite recent field of research.

5. *Rhetorical devices*

A complete view of the interrelation between argumentation and language necessarily includes the rhetorical tradition and its focus on rhetorical devices and figures of speech. This area of study has largely contributed to our understanding of argumentative practices and to the study of their effectiveness. Contributions that stem from a rhetorical approach are hence welcome. Possible topics include (but are not limited to) figures of speech and argumentation, the relation between linguistic and non-linguistic semiotic resources in persuasive discourse, and the theoretical division of labour between rhetoric, linguistics and pragmatics in argumentation studies.

Given the above rationale, the steering committee

- will give priority to proposals that make their methods and analytical categories explicit and that privilege the description of empirical data collected in corpora or empirically.
- will select received submission on the basis of anonymized abstracts.

Plenary speakers

Jeanne Fahnestock (University of Maryland)

Ton van Haften (University of Leiden)

Christian Plantin (Université Lyon 2)

Manfred Stede (University of Potsdam)

Types of contributions

Individual presentation

Individual presentations will last 20 minutes, followed by a 5 minute question session. Contributors will need to tie their presentation with one or two of the conference themes, as described above. The deadline for submission is **30 June 2017**. Abstracts should not be more than 400 words; they must (i) clearly state the research question, (ii) include a brief description of the theoretical framework and of the methodology adopted by the author and (iii) highlight the originality of the proposal.

Panel

Panels are 2 hour long thematic sessions. They are divided in three 30 minute presentations and are followed by a 30 minute discussion time (to take place at the end of the panel or in its course). The panel convenors are responsible for the organisation of both the thematic coherence and the logistic articulation of the panel in order to ensure that it fits the general orientation of the conference. Panel proposals will contain a general description and the abstracts of the three papers to be presented. Panel proposals can be submitted until **30 April 2017**. The general description of the panel and the abstracts should not exceed the 400 word limit each. As for individual presentations, these must (i) clearly state the research question, (ii) include a brief description of the theoretical framework and of the methodology adopted by the author and (iii) highlight the originality of the proposal.

Calendar – important deadlines:

30 April 2017: PANEL submission deadline

31 May 2017: Notification of acceptance/rejection of panels

30 June 2017: INDIVIDUAL PRESENTATION submission deadline

15 September 2017: Notification of acceptance/rejection for individual papers

15 November 2017: Early bird registration deadline

5 January 2018: Registration deadline

7-9 February 2018: Conference

Conference fees

Category	Fee	Observations
Participant: Early bird	CHF 150	Registration possible until 15 November 2017
Participant: Standard	CHF 200	From 16 November 2017 to 5 January 2018
Participant: Student	CHF 100	Proof of PhD status will be required
Attendance	CHF 80	Conferences are free of charge. Registration as attendant covers meals and coffee breaks.

A conference dinner will take place on the evening of 8 February 2018. Conference participants will need to register and pay an additional fee to participate.

ARGAGE Steering Committee

Sara Greco, Thierry Herman, Jérôme Jacquin, Johanna Miecznikowski-Fuenfschilling, Steve Oswald & Andrea Rocci

The Conference series was initiated by the Collectif Romand de Recherches sur l'Argumentation (CoRRReA; Herman, Jacquin, Micheli, Oswald)

Local organising committee

Andrea Rocci, Sara Greco, Johanna Miecznikowski-Fuenfschilling, Chiara Pollaroli, Emma van Bijnen

Scientific committee

Ruth Amossy, Corina Andone, Lilian Bermejo Luque, Marc Bonhomme, Katarzyna (Kasia) Budzynska, Sara Cigada, Arnulf Deppermann, Louis de Saussure, Didier Maillat, Marianne Doury, Frans van Eemeren, Jeanne Fahnestock, James B. Freeman, Bart Garssen, Sara Greco, Jean Goodwin, Ton van Haften, Chris Hart, Thierry Herman, Jos Hornikx, Jérôme Jacquin, Manfred Kienpointner, Kati Hannken-Illjes, Alfredo Lescano, Marcin Lewinski, Martin Luginbühl, Fabrizio Macagno, Hugo Mercier, Raphaël Micheli, Johanna Miecznikowski-Fuenfschilling, Dima Mohammed, Elena Musi, Steve Oswald, Manuel Padilla-Cruz, Fabio Paglieri, Rudi Palmieri, Christian Plantin, Chiara Pollaroli, François Provenzano, Pierre-Yves Raccah, Anne Reboul, Eddo Rigotti, Andrea Rocci, Corine Rossari, Margot Salsmann, Francisca Snoeck Henkemans, Manfred Stede, Christopher Tindale, Assimakis Tseronis, Jan Albert van Laar, Jean Wagemans, Douglas Walton, Galia Yanoshevsky, Marta Zampa, David Zarefsky.