



An invitation to apply to

ARGUPOLIS

A DOCTORAL PROGRAM ON

ARGUMENTATION PRACTICES IN CONTEXT

Argupolis (www.argupolis.net) is a doctoral program, jointly designed and developed by scholars of the Universities of Lugano, Neuchâtel, Lausanne and Amsterdam¹ and funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation, that is specifically devoted to argumentation practices in context. The interdisciplinary research and teaching network of Argupolis, though largely representative of the Swiss academic environment, is strongly connected with the international research community in the field. At the Swiss level, this doctoral program constitutes the only systematic offer of postgraduate education in the domain of argumentation and coordinates various scientific efforts currently developing in this territory. Its special focus on argumentative practices in different social contexts distinguishes it among all doctoral schools at international level.

¹ Four research institutes are responsible for the scientific direction of the program: the Institute of Linguistics and Semiotics at the University of Lugano (Eddo Rigotti, Andrea Rocci), the Institute of Psychology and Education at the University of Neuchâtel (Anne-Nelly Perret-Clermont), the Institute of Psychology of the University of Lausanne (Michèle Grossen) and the Department of Speech Communication, Argumentation Theory and Rhetoric of the University of Amsterdam (Frans H. van Eemeren).

THE SCOPE OF THE PROGRAM

Argupolis is constituted by a research and teaching endeavor focused on the study of argumentation practices as embedded in different social contexts. Argumentation, in fact, is a form of communicative interaction by means of which social realities – institutions, groups and relationships – are construed and managed. People develop argumentation in numerous purposeful activities: to make sound and well-thought decisions, to critically found their opinions, to persuade other people the validity of their own proposals and to evaluate others' proposals by means of a reasonable weighting of arguments. These activities are bound to the contexts in which they take place and are significantly determined by these contexts; thus argumentation too, as the bearing structure of these activities, moulds its strategies in connection with these very different contexts: from family to social and political institutions, from financial markets to media, schools, courts and so on.

Argupolis aims at providing PhD students with adequate conceptual and methodological tools for developing rigorous and innovative investigations of the specific manners in which argumentation is used in human interaction within different contextual spheres. Significantly, it helps on the one hand, to extend argumentation theory towards a consideration of the relevance of context; on the other hand, it helps researchers studying specific contexts to discover the importance of argumentation - not only in fields where its relevance is traditionally taken for granted, like law and political discourse, but also in fields like financial communication and conflict resolution practices. In addition, *Argupolis* builds on the principle that argumentation is a constitutive dimension for knowledge construction for both the growing child's and the adolescent's development of socio-cognitive competences, which makes it an important object of concern in education.

Numerous research activities are already linked to Argupolis developing along different research directions and projects, in which PhD students are involved and which bring to the elaboration of their doctoral dissertations. A first set of the considered projects will examine how specific argumentative practices and moves work in different contexts of interaction: for example, how evaluative premises can be used strategically in policymaking parliamentary debates; or what role modality plays in predictions in Italian economic-financial newspapers. Thus, the structure of the context is taken here as a necessary background to analyze communication practices and the focus is on drawing general results concerning argumentation theory.

A second stream of research starts from the study in the different contexts – focusing in particular on children and education contexts (family and classroom discussions, conflict and peer mediation, science education) – and considers under which conditions the relational or institutional context can afford and foster spaces for argumentation and how argumentation co-constructs the context, for instance in relation to collaborative work in multidisciplinary teams, socialization in the family, conflict mediations in school, development of logical reasoning in infant school children.

ORGANIZATION OF THE PROGRAM

The three-year learning curriculum PhD students will be involved in will start on January 8, 2009; it encompasses courses and seminars taught by a largely international faculty composed of scholars working on the crucial issues of argumentation theory and context analysis. PhD students will be offered personal tutoring with faculty members in relation to their PhD project throughout the program.

Argupolis will also promote the constitution of a learning community by inviting PhD students to engage in discussion and comparison with their colleagues and to be involved in a fruitful dialogue with the national and international research community.

Courses, summer school and winter school, conferences

Title	Teaching staff	N. of hours	Location
First year			
Fundamentals of argumentation theory: strategic maneuvering and the analysis and evaluation of argumentative discourse	F.H. van Eemeren B. J. Garssen	20	Lugano
Seminar on strategic manoeuvring	F.H. van Eemeren B. J. Garssen	10	Lugano
Logic and formal dialectics	E. C. W. Krabbe	20	Lugano
Context, dialogue and cognition	M. Grossen	16	Lausanne/Lugano
Argumentation as situated practices	N. Muller Mirza	4	Lugano
Topics and argumentation schemes	E. Rigotti	20	Lugano
Seminar on argumentation analysis	E. Rigotti	10	Lugano
Bridging argumentation and computer science	D. Walton C. Reed	15	Lugano
Colloquium Amsterdam-Lugano. PhD students are required to attend the colloquium		-	Lugano
Summer school "Methodological issues in the analysis of verbal interactions". Handling of data and construction of corpora of argumentation in context.	L. Mondada & M. Grossen	1 week Sept. 2009	Lugano
Second year			
Toward a social psychology of argumentative situations and knowledge practices	A.-N. Perret-Clermont F. Clément	25	Neuchâtel
Manipulation and fallacies	F. H. van Eemeren B. J. Garssen	20	Lugano
Argumentation and verbal communication	A. F. Snoeck Henkemans	20	Lugano
Winter school "Methodological issues: semantic and pragmatic instruments for argument analysis"	A. Rocci, S. Jacobs D. Perrin, L. de Saussure	1 week (11-16 January 2010)	Ascona or Brissago
Dialogue games	E. Krabbe	10	Lugano

From difference of opinion to conflict	M. Dascal	15	Lugano
Seminar on visual communication supporting argumentative interaction	M. Eppler N. Muller-Mirza	10	Lugano
L'analyse linguistique du discours argumentatif dans les médias	J.-M. Adam, M. Burger A. Rocci	15	Lugano
Colloquium Amsterdam-Lugano. PhD students are required to present their research.		-	Lugano
ISSA Conference		--	Amsterdam
Third year			
Standard and extended Pragma-dialectics in relation to other approaches to argumentation	F.H. van Eemeren B. J. Garssen	20	Lugano
Seminar on rhetoric	C. Tindale	5	Lugano
Seminar on argumentation and persuasion	D. J. O' Keefe	5	Lugano
Colloquium Amsterdam-Lugano. PhD students are required to present their research.		--	Lugano
PhD conference. PhD students are required to submit a paper.		Sept. 2011	Amsterdam

APPLICATIONS

Besides the PhD students who will follow the full program, some places are also open to PhD students who are only interested in the attendance of one or a few Argupolis modules. All are invited to apply for admission to the program by sending to the Argupolis coordination board, a short description of their PhD project and a letter of presentation by their thesis supervisor. Their acceptance will be evaluated by the steering board of Argupolis.

CONTACT

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