

Annual report 2016 of ACLC research group: *Argumentation and Rhetoric Group Amsterdam (ARGA)*

Coordinator: Francisca Snoeck Henkemans

Web page: www.argumentation.nl

Current external funding:

- Corina Andone, Fellowship for international research visit at the University of Lugano, 9 January-9 March 2017, funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation (6,300 Swiss Francs)
- Corina Andone, Fellowship for young visiting researchers, University of Brasov, Romania, funded by the Romanian National Research Council, 3-9 November 2016 (1,000 Euro)
- Funding for the organization of the symposium Argumentation and patient centred care (October 26-27, 2017) from the International Centre for the Study of Argumentation and Speech Communication (3,000 Euro).
- NWO project “Resistance to metaphor” (applicants: main applicant Gerard Steen, co-applicants Corina Andone, Francisca Snoeck Henkemans, Jean Wagemans) (719,978 Euro).

Participants in 2016:

- Francisca Snoeck Henkemans (ACLC), senior researcher, coordinator
- Corina Andone (ACLC) senior researcher
- Eveline Feteris (ACLC), senior researcher
- Bart Garsen (ACLC), senior researcher
- Bert Meuffels (ACLC), senior researcher
- José Plug (ACLC), senior researcher
- Jean Wagemans (ACLC), senior researcher
- Assimakis Tseronis (ACLC), senior researcher
- Roosmaryn Pilgram (ACLC), postdoc
- Lotte van Poppel (ACLC) postdoc
- Eugen Popa (ACLC), PhD candidate
- Jacky Visser (ACLC), PhD candidate
- Andre Juthe (ACLC), External PhD candidate
- Merel Boers (ACLC), External PhD candidate
- Ahmed Omar (ACLC), External PhD candidate

- Andreas Finsen (ACLC), PhD candidate project: resistance to metaphor
- Kiki Renardel de Lavalette, PhD candidate project: resistance to metaphor
- Dunja Wackers, PhD candidate project: resistance to metaphor

Description of the research group:

The aim of this research program is to develop theoretical and practical instruments for the analysis, evaluation and production of argumentative discourse in different communicative domains. The research builds on two important developments that have taken place within the pragma-dialectical approach to argumentation in the last fifteen years. The first development concerns the integration of rhetorical insights into the standard pragma-dialectical theory of argumentation by introducing the notion of ‘strategic maneuvering’: the balancing act that arguers perform in their attempt to be reasonable and effective at the same time. The second and most recent development is a further contextualization of the study of argumentation by focusing on specific conventionalized argumentative practices (or ‘activity types’) and by investigating which argumentative patterns may be regarded as prototypical for those practices. In dealing with the following seven research themes, the research program combines qualitative and quantitative research:

Theme 1 Argumentation in the academic domain

Theme 2 Argumentation in the political domain

Theme 3 Argumentation in the legal domain

Theme 4 Argumentation in the medical domain

Theme 5 Dialectical and rhetorical analysis and evaluation of argumentative discourse

Research highlights in 2016:

1. The project on argumentative patterns resulted in the publication of a special issue of the journal *Argumentation* (30, (1)) in which prototypical argumentative patterns in the legal, academic, political and medical domain were identified and analysed (participants: Corina Andone, Bart Garssen, Eveline Feteris, Francisca Snoeck Henkemans, Jean Wagemans).
2. The NWO-project Resistance to metaphor that started in September 2016.
3. The following PhD theses were defended in 2016:
 - **Merel Boers** *Controversy on moral judgment. Fifteen historian-reviewers in the controversy on Hannah Arendt’s book Eichman in Jeruzalem in the US, West Germany and France, 1963-1967. A historical and a pragma-dialectical perspective*
 - **Andre Juthe** *Argumentation by analogy. A systematic analytical study of an argument scheme*
 - **Eugen Popa** *Thought experiments in academic disputes: A pragma-dialectical method for reconstructing the argumentative use of imaginary scenarios*
 - **Ahmed Omar** *Strategic Maneuvering in Supporting the Feasibility of Political Change. A pragma-dialectical analysis of Egyptian anti-regime columns*
 - **Jacky Visser** *A dialogue game for critical discussion*

4. Three new PhD researchers were appointed in 2016:
Andreas Finsen, Kiki Renardel de Lavalette and Dunja Wackers started in September 2016 with their individual PhD projects which form part of the *Resistance to metaphor* project.
5. Two external PhD projects supervised by ARGA researchers started in 2016
 - **Jorge F. Durán Solórzano.** Strategic maneuvering in the justification of radical actions: A pragma-dialectical comparative analysis between the argumentative discourse of liberal and conservative social movements. (Supervisors Prof. dr. Ton van Haaften, Leiden University, Prof. Dr. Frans H. Van Eemeren, Leiden University and Dr. José Plug, University of Amsterdam)
 - **Natalia Luna Luna.** Strategic maneuvering with the argumentum ad hominem in the political domain in Mexico: An empirical pragma-dialectical study of parliamentary and political televised debates. (Supervisors Prof. dr. Ton van Haaften, Leiden University, Prof. Dr. Frans H. Van Eemeren, Leiden University and Dr. Bart Garssen, University of Amsterdam)
6. In 2016 ARGA hosted the following guest researchers:
 - Qiang Zhou (March 2016-March 2017)
 - Yan Linqiong (September 2015-September 2016)
 - Yu Shiyang (September 2015-September 2016)
 - Jiahua Zhao (September 2016-August 2017)

Valorisation

- Jean Wagemans provided an analysis of an exemplary talk show debate that was incorporated in an article in the Dutch national newspaper *De Volkskrant* on August 22, 2016.
- Jean Wagemans contributed to a documentary on the Dutch Ukraine–European Union Association Agreement referendum that was broadcasted on Dutch national television on October 20, 2016.