DATES AND VENUE OF THE INTERNATIONAL COLLOQUIUM

ARGUMENTATION IN THE 21st CENTURY

THE CHALLENGES: PEOPLE, SOCIETIES AND CULTURES

The International Colloquium will take place on **10 and 11 October 2024** at the Faculty of Arts and Humanities of the University of Coimbra, Coimbra, Portugal.

**ADDRESSES OF THE INTERNATIONAL COLLOQUIUM**

Postal address
Prof. Henrique Jales Ribeiro
Department of Philosophy, Communication and Information
Faculty of Arts and Humanities
University of Coimbra
Largo da Porta Férrea
3004-530 PORTUGAL

Electronic address
argumentation.in.the.21st.century@gmail.com

Telephone
(351) 239 859 983

Websites
https://www.uc.pt/fluc/ief/ (Research Unit: Institute for Philosophical Studies)
https://www.uc.pt/fluc/dfci/ (Department of Philosophy, Communication and Information)
SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE OF THE INTERNATIONAL COLLOQUIUM

(KEYNOTE SPEAKERS)

• Frans H. van Eemeren (Chair: University of Amsterdam & University of Leiden, NL)
• Bart Garssen (University of Amsterdam, NL)
• Hubert Marraud (Autonomous University of Madrid, SP)
• Isabela Fairclough (University of Central Lancashire, UK)
• Wu Peng (University of Jiangsu, CN)
• Xie Yun (University of Sun Yat-sen, CN)
• Scott Jacobs (University of Illinois, US)
• Scott F. Aikin (Vanderbilt University, US)
• Fabrizio Macagno (University of Lisbon, PT)
• António M. Martins (University of Coimbra, PT)
• Henrique J. Ribeiro (University of Coimbra, PT)

ORGANIZATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COLLOQUIUM

The International Colloquium is organized by the Research Unit "Institute for Philosophical Studies", which belongs to the Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology. The main organizer is Henrique Jales Ribeiro, Associate Professor at the Faculty of Arts and Humanities of the University of Coimbra (Department of Philosophy Communication and Information).

Organizing Committee

• Henrique Jales Ribeiro (Professor)
• José G. Sutil (PhD Student)
• Miguel Oliveira (PhD Student)
• Artur Lemos (PhD Student)
• Mariana Gândara (Undergraduate Student)
• Diogo Carneiro (Undergraduate Student)
OFFICIAL LANGUAGE OF THE INTERNATIONAL
COLLOQUIUM

All the papers, without exception, must be presented in English.

DISCUSSING THE SUBJECTS OF THE
INTERNATIONAL COLLOQUIUM

Considering that this is an event about argumentation theory (or rhetoric and argumentation generally conceived), the subjects or themes of the event cannot, from the outset, fail to be argumentative.

FIRST SUBJECT

1) Conceiving the study of argumentation from an international and inter-civilizational perspective.

According to the United Nations, there are 193 countries in the world. At least two thirds of the population of these countries are not Western, i.e. they are not part of the so-called “Western civilization”, whose matrix is Judeo-Christian and whose deepest roots lie in ancient Greece. We, in the West, are not yet intellectually aware that the two-thirds of the world's population, to which we alluded, include China and India, nor have we drawn the appropriate implications (or consequences) from this awareness. This is a very serious matter and of the utmost importance. Be that as it may, it is pertinent and legitimate to assume that in each of these countries/civilizations, and in their respective societies and cultures, arguments and argumentation in general are elaborated and have different objectives than in each of the others. In other words, that the issues argued about are not necessarily the same as in each of the others. In this or that country, for example, abortion can already be practiced legally, while in others it has not yet. This is in line with what Stephen Toulmin tells us in his book *Knowing and Acting* (1976), when he talks about the so-called "anthropological model" for argumentation. This model raises a problem for argumentation theory: different societies can have different responses to controversial cultural issues (such as abortion, euthanasia, sexual orientation or
women's rights). And the problem is that of relativism. But what has been said is not insurmountable: we can always conceive rhetoric and argumentation according to a single model or pattern, as seems to have happened with Toulmin himself.

The problem arises when it is claimed that argumentation in these societies and cultures we are referring to, is, in turn, conditioned by the civilizations to which they belong. From this point of view, we do not argue in the same way (nor do we pose the same dialectical issues to be argued) in each of these civilizations. Accordingly, not only the dialectical and argumentative issues of Western societies are not the same as those of other civilizations, but, even if they are the same, the linguistic, social and cultural resources can differ from civilization to civilization. For example, if we accept that there are a number of countries that belong to the so-called “Islamic civilization”, it could be argued, finally, that their societies are not prepared or predisposed to debate and/or discuss the problems we face in the West today. And the same will happen for other civilizations (religiously and culturally) different from the West. From this point of view, the relevance and scope of Western models for evaluating, representing and discussing arguments in other civilizations seems to be problematic from the start. We are not saying, of course, that there are not dialectical and rhetorical agendas common to different civilizations. What we are saying is that each of these agendas, on the part of the respective protagonists, is permeated or embedded with strong social and cultural presuppositions (including, in the first place, religious ones) that make the possibility of mutual understanding and, consequently, agreement very problematic.

Thus, some of the key issues to be debated at the International Colloquium (perhaps for the first time in a public and international forum) are:

a) to what extent do civilizational differences in identity affect the study of argumentation? In particular, to what extent should current models for the study of argumentation be adapted to these differences in civilizational identity to which we have alluded? More precisely:

b) to what extent should current models for the study of argumentation (whether from a rhetorical perspective, a dialectical one or both) be adapted to these differences in civilizational identity?
SECOND SUBJECT

2) The current state of argumentation theory: on the rupture between dialectics and rhetoric.

Closely related to the first subject of the International Colloquium is the question of whether or not there is a single Western model for the study of argumentation; and, if there is no such model, what implications this has for the study of argumentation. The answer, as seems obvious, is that there is not. What characterizes the current state of the study of argumentation seems to be a rupture between the schools that emphasize dialectics in argumentation and those schools that place themselves clearly within the scope of rhetoric, properly called. This situation is very disturbing because, for the same argumentative problems, there will be several possible models of argumentation. It introduces relativism into the very realm of argumentation theory. Some efforts have been made to overcome the rupture alluded to by both dialectical schools and rhetorical currents. It is important to reflect deeply on this issue, with generosity and good faith, in order to unite and reconcile the various quarters of rhetoric and argumentation. The International Colloquium seems to be the appropriate forum.

It will be said that the divergences we have alluded to have always existed. And that is true. But if theory of argumentation, which is characteristically Western, aspires or wants to aspire to have an inter-civilizational scope (as was suggested earlier), it seems essential to resolve them.

Thus, some of the key issues to be debated at the International Colloquium (again: “perhaps for the first time in a public and international forum”) are:

a) what kind of theoretical or meta-theoretical divergences and conflicts exist within argumentation theory (or rhetoric and argumentation, generally conceived) and what is their greater or lesser importance?

b) how they can be resolved; and, in particular;

c) how can they be resolved so that, as far as possible, we achieve the goal of the necessary internal harmony consistency within this theory.
FIELDS OF APPLICATION OF THE SUBJECTS OF
THE INTERNATIONAL COLLOQUIUM

Argumentation theory (or rhetoric and argumentation), which includes interdisciplinary contributions from
- linguistics,
- philosophy,
- sociology,
- economics,
- legal theory,
- literary theory;
among other areas.

CALLS FOR PAPERS
(Important Dates)

There are TWO CALLS FOR PAPERS:
— one from 15 May to 20 June 2024;
— and another from 15 July to 1 September 2024.

- The acceptance or rejection of paper proposals from the FIRST CALL FOR PAPERS will be communicated to participants on 25 June. A provisional program of the International Colloquium will be published by 29 June 2024.
- The acceptance or rejection of paper proposals from the SECOND CALL FOR PAPERS will be communicated to participants on 7 September 2024.
- The full and final program of the International Colloquium will be published on 7 September 2024.

- Enrollment in the International Colloquium, for each participant whose paper proposal is sent in the FIRST CALL FOR PAPERS and is accepted, is free of charge.
- Enrollment in the International COLLOQUIUM for each participant whose paper proposal is sent in the SECOND CALL FOR PAPERS and is accepted, costs 20 Euros.
**ABSTRACT SUBMISSION RULES**

- Each paper proposal must not exceed **500 words** and must include an indication of the applicant's professional status (University or school with which is affiliated, or other work), as well as a brief summary of his/her CV.
- Proposals should be sent to the email address of the International Colloquium: argumentation.in.the.21st.century@gmail.com with the following subject: “Abstract Proposal”.

**OTHER INFORMATIONS**

**HOTELS IN COIMBRA**

**Hotel Botânico** (2 stars: near the Faculty of Arts and Humanities)
Bairro de São José, 15, 3030-207 Coimbra
ger@hotelbotanicocoimbra.pt
(351) 239 714 824

**Ibis Coimbra Centro**
Avenida Emidio Navarro, 70, Edifício Topázio, n.º 281, 3000-150 Coimbra
H1672@accor.com
(351) 239 852 130

**Casa São Bento** (3 stars: near the Faculty of Arts and Humanities)
Rua Tomar, 7, 3000-041 Coimbra
reservas@casadesaobento.com
(351) 239 006 919

**Hotel Dona Inês**
Rua Abel Dias Urbano, 12, 3000-001 Coimbra
reservations.portugal@minorhotels.pt
(351) 215 568 072

**Hotel Oslo**
Av. Fernão de Magalhães, 25, 3000-175 Coimbra
mail@hoteloslo-coimbra.pt
(351) 239 829 071

**Hotel Mondego**
Largo das Ameias, 3-4, 3000-024 Coimbra
info@hotelmondego.com
(351) 239 496 239
Hotel Vila Galé Coimbra  
Rua Abel Dias Urbano, 20, 3000-001 Coimbra  
portugal.reservas@vilagale.com  
(351) 239 240 000

Hotel D. Luís  
Rotunda Ponte Rainha Santa Isabel, 3040-091 Coimbra  
geral@hoteldluis.pt  
(351) 239 802 120

Hotel Coimbra City Charm  
R. das Padeiras 34, Coimbra  
coimbracitycharm@gmail.com  
(351) 913 489 001

TOURIST INFORMATION ABOUT COIMBRA

• About the City

https://www.coimbraportugaltourism.com/

• About the University

https://visit.uc.pt/pt
https://visit.uc.pt/pt/space-list/joanina

[Image: Joanina Library (1728)]

• Travel Agencies

TOP ATLÂNTICO
https://www.coimbrashopping.pt/lojas/top-atlantico/
(351) 239 791 060