

RSE VZW Summer Newsletter

Dear Members of the Rhetoric Society of Europe,

at a time of global rethinking and reasonable optimism, we present you with important news concerning RSE membership fees and the Call for Papers for the next RSE conference in 2021.

As usual, if you have any news that you'd like to share with the members, please [just let us know!](#)

Happy reading and enjoy the Summer!

Ida Vikoren Andersen and Maria Freddi

Board Announcements

At the successful Rhetoric in Society conference in Ghent last September, the Board announced plans to introduce a membership fee. With this fee we will be able to ensure the continued quality of RSE activities such as the RIS conference and the newsletter which keeps everyone up-to-date on rhetorical activities and news. We will also be able to increase our online presence and grow our international and influential network. Rhetoric scholars are scattered across fields and disciplines. The RSE unites us and we believe it can become a strong Europe-wide, global and persuasive voice representing, supporting and promoting rhetorical research, scholarship and teaching. With the registration fee, you will help to make all this possible.

Below you can find more details of the membership fee and the fee collection procedure.

The RSE offers the following fee categories for a **two-year membership**:

- €40 – Regular member (faculty)
- €25 – PhD student and retired faculty member

This is less than €2 a month for faculty members. We believe it represents good value for members while enabling the Society to develop and to realise its ambitions.

Furthermore, as a member, you will:

- be entitled to a reduction to the registration fee for the Rhetoric in Society conference
- receive the regular RSE newsletter
- take part in the wider RSE international community of scholars.

To confirm your membership, please follow these simple steps:

- transfer the fee amount that applies to you (€40/€25) to the following bank account number of the Rhetoric Society of Europe VZW: BE55 7360 5031 1944 (BIC: KREDBEBB)
- include the following information in the description field of the bank transfer: RSE membership – [your name] – [your email address]

Upon receipt, you will receive an email with a confirmation of your payment and membership. Please note that this might take a few days.

We look forward to welcoming you as a contributing member of the Rhetoric Society of Europe!

Best wishes,

The Board of The Rhetoric Society of Europe

Members Announcements & Other News

Call for Papers

8th Rhetoric in Society Conference
Rhetoric as Strategic Thinking

Eberhard Karls University, 26–28 May 2021
Tübingen, Germany

Organized by the Rhetoric Society of Europe in collaboration with the Institute for General Rhetoric and the Institute for Media Studies at Tübingen University

<http://ris8.org/>

We are very happy to announce that proposals are now invited for panels, papers, roundtables, and other forms of presentation to be delivered at Rhetoric in Society 8, which is the biannual conference organized by the Rhetoric Society of Europe. The conference is scheduled to take place from May 26th to 28th 2021 at Eberhard Karls University in Tübingen, Germany.

The incalculable nature of the COVID-19 pandemic obliges us to remain cautious. As the safety of our conference participants is of highest concern, we ought to point out that in an event of the pandemic extending into the late spring of 2021, the conference will be postponed. However, we remain optimistic and encourage you to submit your papers and panels and are looking forward to welcoming you in Tübingen.

We invite proposals for:

- Papers or panels which speak directly to the conference theme (explained below);
- Papers or panels which address general issues related to the theory, analysis & practice of rhetoric in society;
- Other kinds of presentations such as roundtables, world cafés or debates.

Rhetoric as Strategic Thinking

With its focus on 'strategy' and 'strategic thinking,' the Rhetoric in Society 8 conference discusses the ways we define rhetoric as a specific form of communication, argumentation, persuasion, or mediation. Strategic thinking as a complex cognitive activity involves the mental representation of a goal as well as an understanding of the ways and means to achieve this goal through communicative action. Rhetors are expected to imagine a number of possible scenarios before deciding on a specific strategy and even to adjust this strategy during a campaign or even during a single speech. As Quintilian famously put it in his *Institutio oratoria* (II, 13, 2, transl. Butler): "If the whole of rhetoric could be thus embodied in one compact code, it would be an easy task of little compass: but most rules are liable to be altered by the nature of the case, circumstances time and place, and by hard necessity itself. Consequently, the all-important gift for an orator is a wise adaptability since he is called upon to meet the most varied emergencies." The bellicose metaphor of the commander (*strategos*) is often used in ancient rhetorical theories to conceive of the orator's ability to adjust a strategic plan to specific circumstances or specific audiences. Like the commander, Quintilian's orator has to find answers "in the circumstances of the case." (*Institutio oratoria*, II, 13, 5, transl. Butler).

The conference endeavors to discuss rhetoric as strategic thinking in order to both define and question a key characteristic of rhetorical communication. It does so by exploring different concepts from different disciplinary backgrounds, such as argumentation, strategic maneuvering, imagination and mental simulation, rhetorical agency, situational rhetoric, literature and linguistics, political theory, communication and media studies, organizational rhetoric/communication, public relations, philosophy of language and many more. We would also like to discuss the blurring boundaries between rhetoric and other forms of strategic communication such as manipulation, propaganda, or populism, to assess the strategies applied by human and non-human actors in scripted or artificial media environments, and to explore the conditions responsible for the success or failure of rhetorical strategies and tactics in societies that are increasingly coping with polarization, radicalization and deception.

General papers

We also invite proposals for papers and panels more generally concerned with the theory, practice or analysis of rhetoric. This may include, for example, historical scholarship, theoretical analysis and contemporary cultural or political critique; work grounded in political theory, philosophy, languages and linguistics, argumentation, literary studies, communication studies, composition, media studies, psychology, sociology, history, cultural studies and more. Papers might be comparative, national or international in focus, concerned with particular orators, ideologies or movements and focus on spoken, written or audio-visual communication.

Alternative presentations

We welcome proposals for forms of presentation other than panels and papers. This might include: roundtables addressing key rhetorical themes, works or phenomena; debates between contending positions; other, novel and effective ways of communicating research findings, claims and arguments.

How to submit a proposal

Please submit your paper proposals by September 30th 2020 to ris8@rhetorik.uni-tuebingen.de.

We will inform you about our decision December 1st 2020.

Please do not submit more than two proposals. Panel proposals should not comprise more than four individual papers.

Individual Paper Proposals

All individual paper proposals must be written in English and submitted to the Committee with the following information:

- Title
- Author name
- Email address
- Affiliation
- Abstract (300 words maximum)

Session Proposals

Session Organizers should submit session proposals written in English to the Committee with the following information:

- Session title
- Session abstract of 300 words maximum
- List of participants including chair, presenters and discussants (if applicable), their email addresses, and the names of the institutions that they are associated with
- The related paper abstracts (300 words maximum/ paper)

Call for Papers

Essay Prize in Informal Logic/Critical Thinking/Argumentation Theory

The Association for Informal Logic and Critical Thinking (AILACT) invites submissions for the 2020 AILACT Essay Prize. This will be the 16th year in which the prize has been offered.

- Value: \$700 U.S.
- The prize-winning paper, and any "honourable mention" paper, will be considered for publication in *Informal Logic* upon the conditions listed below.*
- Papers related to the teaching or theory of informal logic or critical thinking, and papers on argumentation theory, will be considered for the prize.
- There are no restrictions on authorship. Authors need not be members of AILACT.
- Previously unpublished papers, and papers published or accepted for publication between January 1, 2017 and September 1, 2020 are eligible. Maximum length: 6,000 words (exclusive of footnotes and references). Authors may not submit the same paper, or a similar paper, more than once following the first submission.
- Entries will be assessed on the basis of their argument, scholarship, style, and importance to the field. There is a limit of one entry per author.
- The jury members for the 2020 AILACT essay prize, approved by the AILACT Board of Directors, are Jean Goodwin, Distinguished Professor, Department of Communication, North Carolina State University; Hans Hansen, Professor of Philosophy, University of Windsor; David Sherry, Professor of Philosophy, Northern Arizona University. The jury's decision is final.
- To submit a paper, attach a PDF or MS Word or RTF document to an email with AILACT ESSAY ENTRY on the "subject" line and send it to Derek Allen (derekallen@trinity.utoronto.ca) with a covering note giving your name, a mailing address, and the word-length of your paper exclusive of footnotes and references. Please send the paper ready for blind-reviewing (the author not identified on the paper or file containing the paper or in the description of the document's properties that is part of the file, and self-identifying references removed from the text, notes and references). Each page should be numbered.
- The deadline for receipt of submissions is September 1, 2020. The winner will be announced by December 15, 2020. AILACT will publicize the name of the winner on its web site and at AILACT sessions held at American Philosophical Association divisional meetings in 2021.
- For further information about the essay prize, contact Gilbert Plumer (plumerge@gmail.com). For information about AILACT, visit our web site: <https://ailact.wordpress.com/>.

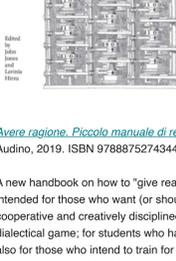
* The prize-winning paper, and any "honourable mention" paper, will be eligible for consideration for publication in *Informal Logic* if it has not already been published or accepted or committed for publication elsewhere and is not under consideration for publication elsewhere, and if the author consents to its consideration for publication in *Informal Logic*. The editors of *Informal Logic* will arrange for blind review of the paper if these conditions are met. The author will be expected to revise the paper in light of the reviewers' suggestions, or to justify not doing so.

Featured Publications

[Rhetorical Machines](#), Edited by John Jones and Lavinia Hirsu, The University of Alabama Press, Rhetoric Culture and Social Critique Series, 2019.

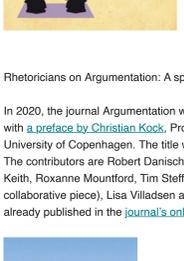
A landmark volume that explores the interconnected nature of technologies and rhetorical practice. *Rhetorical Machines* addresses new approaches to studying computational processes within the growing field of digital rhetoric.

RHETORICAL MACHINES



[Avere ragione](#), *Piccolo manuale di retorica dialogica*, By Adelino Cattani, Dino Audino, 2019. ISBN 9788875274344.

A new handbook on how to "give reason" by "rhetorical dialogic". This book is intended for those who want (or should) defend their ideas in a polemically cooperative and creatively disciplined way; for those who want to practice the dialectical game; for students who have to face the "argumentative theme" and also for those who intend to train for debate tournaments. The goal is to recover the method and spirit of the argued and regulated debate, as well as the sheer pleasure of discussing.



Rhetoricians on Argumentation: A special issue of the journal *Argumentation*

In 2020, the journal *Argumentation* will publish a special issue, guest edited and with a preface by Christian Kock, Professor Emeritus of Rhetoric at the University of Copenhagen. The title will be "Rhetoricians on Argumentation". The contributors are Robert Danish, Jeanne Fahnestock, Robert Ivie, William Keith, Roxanne Mountford, Tim Steffensmeier (the latter three contribute a collaborative piece), Lisa Villadsen and David Zarefsky. All the contributions are already published in the [journal's online edition at Springer](#).



A [lecture series](#) about Daniel Defoe's A Journal of the Plague Year (1722) by RSE member Tommi Kakko of Aalto University, Finland.

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