

RSE VZW Summer 2023 Newsletter  
Issued August 2023

Dear Members of the Rhetoric Society of Europe,

We hope you are all enjoying your summer! While we are preparing to bring you more news from the Board in upcoming editions of the newsletter, for now, let us reminisce about the wonderful RiSB held in Tübingen earlier this summer.

But that is not all! As we embrace the transitioning season, we are delighted to share several interesting calls for papers – some of them with fast-approaching deadlines.

We also continue with more interviews with scholars of rhetoric around Europe. This time professor Ruth Amossy, Tel Aviv University, answered our questions on rhetoric.

We hope you enjoy the news we have gathered for you this time. As usual, if you have any news that you'd like to share with the members, please [just let us know](#).

Ida Vikoren Andersen

Board Announcements

The Board would like to thank the team from Tübingen for organising a highly memorable Rhetoric in Society 8 conference.

In the latest issue of Res Rhetorica (vol. 10, no. 2), you can [read a report on the conference](#), authored by Anna Kiełbiewska and Ewa Modrzejewska.

Call for Submissions

Conferences

NKRF9: Rhetoric in Digital and Technological Transition  
Retorik i digital teknologisk transition  
University of Copenhagen, Denmark  
9-11 October 2024

The Nordic Rhetoric Association biennial conference NKRF9: Rhetoric in Digital and Technological Transition will be hosted in Copenhagen 9-11 October 2024. The conference invites contributions (in Scandinavian or English), that:

- 1. Address rhetorical perspectives on digitality and technological development. Possible topics for submissions could be:
- Digital literacy in rhetorical practices
- Rhetorical perspectives on artificial intelligence and chatbots
- Case studies in digital rhetoric
- Rhetorical pedagogy in multimodal formats
- Interplay between digital and analog methods in rhetorical research
- Classical rhetorical concepts rethought in a digital context
- The impact of digital media on rhetorical practice in relation to temporality and spatiality
- The importance of modality for research and teaching on themes such as democracy, social justice, climate, peace, and conflict
- Archival research in Scandinavia
- 2. Relates to other perspectives on rhetorical theory, pedagogy and practice. Possible topics for presentations could be:
- Case studies in current social debates
- The role of rhetoric in interdisciplinary research or teaching
- The special/particular? opportunities and challenges of Scandinavian rhetorical research
- Historical perspectives on Scandinavian rhetoric, preferably with a focus on modality

Abstracts can be submitted between 1 January 2024 – 1 February 2024. Read the full Call for Papers, see information about the conference programme, and find more information about how to submit your abstract on the conference webpage: [English version](#) / [Danish version](#).

SUNY CoW Conference 2023: Writing, Thinking, and Learning with AI: Exploring Relationships of Rhetoric and Artificial Intelligence  
Virtual conference hosted by the SUNY Council on Writing and the Program in Writing and Rhetoric at Stony Brook University  
13-14 October 2023

The conference invites teachers and scholars across all disciplines to come together to explore the broader implications of generative AI tools like ChatGPT for the future of rhetoric, writing, thinking, and learning. They welcome panels and presentations that engage with how we may carve new pathways of pedagogy and scholarship by advancing our understanding of new modes of artificial intelligence, addressing what we value about human agency as writers, and exploring how we may use and shape this emerging technology.

Some ways to engage with the theme include but are not limited to the following topics:

- Ethics of persuasion by and with AI
- Critical thinking and computer thinking
- The ethics of using language-generation software in student writing, and the ethics of "detecting" such use
- Existing and emerging AI developments and platforms likely to influence writing and rhetoric in the future
- Enhancing learning and pedagogy (in/across the disciplines) with artificial intelligence
- Dominant discourses and rhetorics of AI
- Student agency and artificial intelligence
- Public discourse and perception of AI, writing, and/or education
- Social change and artificial intelligence
- AI and linguistic diversity, neurodiversity, and equity
- Hermeneutic and ontological grounding in the age of AI

In addition to traditional abstract and panel presentation proposals, the conference seeks out unique submissions that play with conference form, for example by (1) assembling workshops and discussions to address a central question or problematic regarding AI and rhetoric to prompt community conversations, (2) bringing together a panel with scholars from rhetoric and writing with experts in other fields, and (3) preparing a demonstration or performance of inventive and artistic uses of AI, writing, and rhetoric.

Abstracts should be submitted via [this Google Form](#) by **8 September 2023**. Read the full Call for Papers and [more details about the conference here](#).

PhD Course

PhD course (5 ECTS): Practice-Oriented Document Analysis  
University of Oslo, Norway  
6-10 November 2023

Documents are everywhere. Whether physical or digital, large or small, loud or invisible, they permeate our societies and individual lives, past and present. Some are outright celebrities, like the UN Assessment Reports on Climate Change; others, such as passports, can open doors and borders – or keep them shut if your document is not accepted. Documents quickly pile up as empirical materials in our own research projects. So how to make use of this rich resource? How to analyze documents as part of your PhD project?

This PhD course brings together a varied set of methodological approaches to demonstrate and discuss how we can analyze documents as both text, artifact and social practice. Building on a recently published textbook, the course introduces the method of 'practice-oriented document analysis' ([Asdal & Reinertsen 2022, SAGE Publications](#)).

During the course, we will work on the methodological moves developed in this book for analyzing and working with documents: How documents can be approached as sites, that they can be analyzed as texts, how we can examine 'document work' and 'document texts', how documents are involved in the making of issues, and what we can learn from analyzing how documents move. We will draw from a rich source of document studies in STS and across the humanities and social sciences more broadly, and also introduce you to the theoretical underpinnings that have inspired our practice-orientation to documents.

The course week will consist of lectures, discussions and writing exercises where you will be able to work on and with documents, and especially the document material that you explore as part of your PhD thesis.

This PhD course is international and open to PhD candidates from any institution. Admission to a certified PhD program is required for participation. [Read more and apply by 1 September here](#).

Journal Submissions

Res Rhetorica invites proposals for the issue **Rhetoric of remembrance/oblivion** (edited by Marek Jezziński and Anna M. Kiełbiewska). They invite submissions related to topics such as:

- rhetoric of commemoration, ways of cultivating memory (monuments, places of remembrance)
- rhetoric of cultural heritage
- the agonistic dimension of memory (e.g. disputes in the area of postcolonial memory, discriminatory memory and alternative versions of historical memory)
- persuasive ways of (collective) memory construction
- memoria, mnemonics and their challenges in the face of technological development
- memory as a component of ethos building, community and group identity
- (politics of) shaping collective memory – in rhetorical terms
- the rhetoric of oblivion as a tool of manipulation and propaganda
- rhetorical strategies of silence and overlooking
- memory and oblivion in public and didactic discourses
- cultivating memory in teaching (history, mother tongue) – in rhetorical terms
- cultivating the memory of rhetorical traditions
- the rhetorical dimension of taboos in the memory discourse

The full [Call for papers can be read here](#).

Abstracts should be 500-700 words long and **submitted by e-mail to both editors by 10 September 2023**. Marek Jezziński: [jezmar@umk.pl](mailto:jezmar@umk.pl) Anna M. Kiełbiewska: [a.miloszewska@uw.edu.pl](mailto:a.miloszewska@uw.edu.pl).

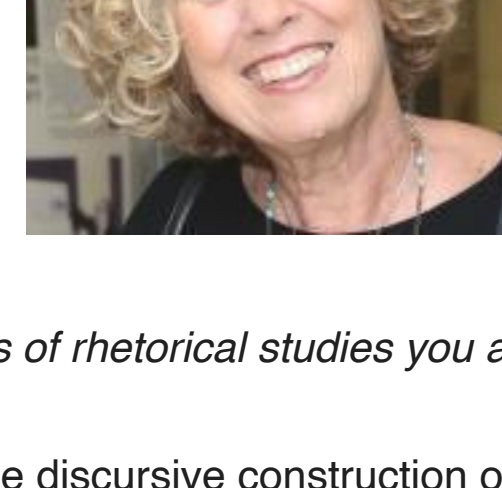
Featured Publications

[Res Rhetorica: Argumentation in Rhetoric \(Argumentacja w retoryce\)](#), vol. 10, no. 2 (2023), edited by Anna Bendrat, Ewa Modrzejewska, Elżbieta Pawlak-Hejno.

With contributions from Paweł Nowak, Kinga Rogowska, Marcin Będkowski, Jakub Prus, Joanna Szczepańska-Włoch, Magdalena Smoleń-Wawrzyszczyn, Joanna Magdalena Kieres-Lach, Aleksandra Baran, Ida Vikoren Andersen.

Interviews

We continue our conversations with scholars of rhetoric around Europe. This time we have asked Ruth Amossy, Emeritus professor of French Literature at Tel-Aviv University, director of the A.D.A.R.R. research group (Analyse du discours, argumentation, rhétorique), chief editor of the journal *Argumentation et analyse du discours* and member of RSE Advisory Board, to tell us about rhetorical studies in her country.



Can you tell us what kinds of rhetorical studies you are currently involved in?

My last works deal with the discursive construction of political legitimacy and authority, and with the place of argument in the fabric of literary but also everyday discourse (such as discourses on the Net). In the framework of my seminal book on polemics, I also analyze various public controversies (such as current polemics on immigration), as well as the issue of "alternative rationalities" (incompatible ways of reasoning) that is at the heart of contemporary society.

Your work on rhetoric and discourse analysis has been very influential in Europe (e.g. your book *Apologie de la polémique*, PUF, 2014 has been translated into four languages). What does a rhetorical approach to discourse consist in?

A rhetorical approach analyzes all the verbal means used by an individual or collective speaker to act on its addressees to make them adhere to a thesis, to modify or reinforce their representations and opinions or simply to orient their ways of seeing the surrounding world or to raise questions about a given issue. It thus explores both the argumentative goal of the speech (if there is one) and its argumentative dimension (hidden in the implicit layers of the text). A rhetorical analysis is, by definition, dialogic (looking both into interaction and interdiscourse), discursive (exploring the verbal construction of the real or virtual exchange as well as its figural aspects), generic (examining the verbal exchange in the framework of a given genre with its specific constraints) and context dependent (looking both at the situation of communication and the socio-historical or political context). It extracts the arguments embedded in the discourse to uncover the reasoning underlying it but also explores the verbal web in which the argument is woven to explore the complexity of the meanings thus constructed. This is the reason why it feeds not only on theories of argumentation but also on the discourse analysis. By so doing, rhetorical analysis reveals the social functions of the examined discourses and controversies while shedding light on the way people think, interact and discuss at a given moment of time.

Can you describe the kinds of courses and programmes offered to students who want to engage in the study of rhetoric at the University of Tel-Aviv / in Israel?

Tel-Aviv University does not have an autonomous department of rhetoric, but we have a program of rhetoric in the department of General Studies of the Faculty of Humanities. The courses are open to students from other departments in the Humanities and the Faculty of Social Sciences but also, these last years, to students from the School of Engineering and from various departments outside the Humanities (Law, Natural Sciences, etc.). It includes a general introduction to rhetoric, a compulsory course on rhetorical analysis and another one on arguments and fallacies. The student can choose other courses on various subjects such as ethos and image repair, rhetoric of political discourse, etc.

Research students (MA and PhD) are invited to join our research group ADARR (Tel-Aviv and Bar-Ilan Universities) and its forum where scholars in rhetoric, argumentation and Discourse analysis present their research (mostly in French, sometimes in English) on Tuesdays (every 2 weeks) both in class and on Zoom. Since the corona, we became an international group with colleagues and PhD students from abroad (Italy, Ivory Coast, France, Brazil, ...) joining us regularly on Zoom and presenting their own work. Various PhD theses were (and still are) written in the field of argumentation, rhetoric and Discourse analysis in the framework of our doctoral school of Cultural Studies or of the French Department of Bar-Ilan University.

How do you see the role of rhetoric studies in the University curriculum?

My hope is to transform the studies of rhetoric into a transversal program offered to all the students of the different Faculties. Young people need more than ever the capacity to argue rationally, to analyze the discourses circulating in the public sphere and in the social networks, to detect and understand the logic underlying the reasoning of the other, to improve their skills of oral and written presentation.

Can you name a couple of works in rhetoric that you consider a must-read for those who embark on rhetorical studies?

Those are only a few among many important introductions to rhetoric and argumentation

Aristotle's *Rhetoric*  
*The New Rhetoric. A 1958 introduction* by Chaim Perelman and Lucie Olbrechts-Tyteca (1969 [1958]) is a must.

I also recommend:  
Kennedy Georges, 1963, *The Art of Persuasion in Greece*, New Jersey, Princeton University Press.  
Amossy Ruth, 2021 [2000], 4th ed. *L'argumentation dans le discours*, Paris, Colin  
Tindale Christopher W., 2004, *Rhetorical Argumentation. Principles of Theory and Practice*, London, Sage.

What do you consider important for the future of the RSE (Rhetoric Society of Europe)?

The RSE can promote rhetorical studies in European Universities and launch joint programs of rhetoric through various European funds and exchange programs. It can also promote (as it already does) specific meetings dealing with rhetoric and exchanges on Zoom on specific rhetorical topics (theoretical or linked to recent events and important contemporary social issues).

References:  
Amossy, R. 2021 [2000] *L'argumentation dans le discours*. Paris: Colin.  
Amossy, R. (2014) *Apologie de la polémique*. Paris: PUF  
*In Defense of Polemics* (Dordrecht: Springer, Argumentation Library). 166 p.

The interview was authored by Maria Freddi.

Submit something for next newsletter



Join the RSE Facebook group

Copyright © 2019 Rhetoric Society of Europe VZW. All rights reserved.  
You are receiving this email as you are a member of the Rhetoric Society of Europe.

Our mailing address is:  
Rhetoric Society of Europe VZW  
Klein Dalenstraat 32  
3020 Herent  
Belgium

Add us to your address book.

Want to change how you receive these emails?  
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#)

This email was sent to [ccEmail Address](#)  
[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)  
Rhetoric Society of Europe VZW - Klein Dalenstraat 32 - Herent 3020 - Belgium

