

**ASSOCIATION FOR INFORMAL LOGIC  
AND CRITICAL THINKING  
(AILACT)  
*NEWSLETTER*  
DECEMBER 2016**

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**From the Editor**

The 2016 AILACT Essay Prize submissions are in and the judges have deliberated. The winning paper is “Conductive argument as a mode of strategic maneuvering” by Yun Xie from the Institute of Logic and Cognition, Sun Yat-sen University, Guangzhou, China. The winning essay is forthcoming from *Informal Logic* and will also be available shortly on the AILACT website. Congratulations to Yun Xie and all who submitted papers. The call for the 2017 Essay Prize will be forthcoming soon.

I regret to announce the passing of Dale Jacquette this August. An obituary by Nicholas Rescher is included in section 3.

The programs for each of the AILACT sessions of the APA meetings are now available—see section 4 of the newsletter for full details.

A Membership Form is available at the end of this newsletter. Dues, which continue to be \$10.00, may be paid by check or credit card or PayPal; the form should be completed and sent (with a check if payment is by check) to our treasurer, Don Hatcher. Please note the new members are now required to register on AILACT’s online Member Area.

Finally, if you have any news relevant to the general AILACT membership, send it to me via email by April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017 for potential inclusion in the April edition.

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## **From the President**

The most significant news of the past four months concerns some increasing visibility for critical thinking. Bob Ennis raised the question on the AILACT discussion list of why PhilJobs did not recognize a category of critical thinking for job applicants to designate as their AOS/AOC. In reply, Steve Patterson pointed out that PhilPapers had a category called Critical Reasoning. Petitioning for a subcategory of Critical Thinking might then be a first step in raising the profile of critical thinking. Steve followed through, requested the subcategory, and, as noted in the August Newsletter, was successful! Steve will edit the category. He next raised the question of whether the editors of the *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* might be willing to include an entry on critical thinking. There are entries for Informal Logic and Philosophy for Children. At this point, Leo Groarke had a conversation with the editors of the encyclopedia. The upshot was an invitation to David Hitchcock to write the entry. He agreed and is now working on the project. David anticipates that much of the article will cover the same content as in his article “Critical thinking as an educational ideal,” available at

<https://www.researchgate.net/publication/275462988> *Critical thinking as an educational ideal*

He welcomes suggestions for the entry sent to him directly at [hitchcockd@mcmaster.ca](mailto:hitchcockd@mcmaster.ca). This entry, together with the entries on informal logic and fallacies already on the *Stanford Encyclopedia*, hopefully will raise the profile of critical thinking sufficiently so that job applicants may designate it as their AOS or AOC. Thanks to all who have had a part in raising the visibility of critical thinking thus far.

The last four months have seen the filling of some vacancies and the opening of others. Frank Fair has agreed to serve as APA Central Division Program Chair for 2017-19. Pat Bondy is joining the Supertext Advisory Committee, along with Frank Fair, Steve Patterson, and Dona Warren. Trudy Govier and Horia I. Petriche are serving on the Proposal Writing Committee. One additional person should be on this committee, and there should also be one additional person on the Critical Thinking Assessment Committee (incumbents Robert Ennis and Michael Scriven) and also one additional person on the Textbook Review Committee (incumbents Jerry Cederblum and Jan Sobocan). As noted in the August issue, with 2016 Lilian Bermejo Luque concludes her three year term on the AILACT Essay Prize Jury, and I want to thank her for her work. Lilian will be succeeded by Marianne Doury. The chronicle of the last four months is complete.

James Freeman  
President, AILACT

## **Obituary**

### DALE JACQUETTE (1953-2016)

Professor Dale Jacquette of the University of Bern in Switzerland died suddenly and unexpectedly on Monday, August 22, 2016 at the age of 63. After graduating from Oberlin in 1975 with high honors in philosophy, Jacquette earned his Ph.D. at Brown University in 1983 with a doctoral thesis on the logic of intention under the direction of Roderick Chisholm. Thus began an amazingly productive career which saw the publication of a long series of informative and influential books appearing at a rate exceeding one per year, and covering a vast range of philosophically salient topics in logic, metaphysics, and the philosophy of mind. Of special interest to Jacquette were Meinong, Russell, and Frege—to each of whose work he dedicated several books. His breadth of vision is indicated by the fact that Schopenhauer and Wittgenstein also figured in his pantheon. Beyond his own writings, Jacquette rendered service to the profession in various important editorial projects, including a term as editor of the *American Philosophical Quarterly* (during 2002-05).

There is a long tradition of transatlantic migration of European scholars into American universities, but movement in the reverse direction is exceedingly rare. Jacquette became one of its few instances when he moved from Penn State University to the University of Bern in 2008. His transit betokened the deep appreciation his European colleagues had for his extensive work on modern Germanophile logic and philosophy.

Jacquette was a devoted and indefatigable researcher possessed of a keen insight into fundamentals and a tenacious determination to get the heart of the matter. His premature death left several important projects in a state of near-readiness for publication, including a monumental philosophical biography of Gottlob Frege in preparation for Cambridge University Press.

An accessible and friendly person who always manifested a spirit of cooperation and collaboration, Dale Jacquette had accumulated a wide circle of admiring and dedicated friends and associates. His departure is a great loss both to philosophy itself and to the philosophical community.

Nicholas Rescher

## **AILACT @ APA**

**Eastern:** *AILACT Session at 2017 Eastern Division Meeting, January 4-7, 2017, Renaissance Baltimore Harborplace Hotel, Baltimore, MD.*

*Thursday, January 6, 12:00-2:00 PM.*

TOPIC: "Critical Thinking in Latin American Philosophy"

CHAIR: Anne Ashbaugh, Towson University, [aashbaugh@towson.edu](mailto:aashbaugh@towson.edu)

SPEAKERS: Guillermo Hurtado, Instituto de Investigaciones Filosóficas, UNAM,  
[gmhp@unam.mx](mailto:gmhp@unam.mx)  
Title: TBA

Susana Nuccetelli, St. Cloud State University, [snuccetelli@stcloudstate.edu](mailto:snuccetelli@stcloudstate.edu)  
Title: Skepticism about Latin American Philosophy and Critical Thinking

Robert Sanchez - Mount Saint Mary's University, [rsanchez1@msmu.edu](mailto:rsanchez1@msmu.edu)  
Title: The Unusually Important Role of Analogy in Mexican Philosophy

For more information, please contact Susana Nuccetelli, [snuccetelli@stcloudstate.edu](mailto:snuccetelli@stcloudstate.edu) or Gary Seay, [gmseay@aol.com](mailto:gmseay@aol.com).

**Central:** *AILACT Session at 2017 Central Division Meeting, March 1-4, 2017, Sheraton Kansas City at Crown Center, Kansas City, MO.*

*Friday, March 3, 7:00-10:00 PM.*

TOPIC: Richard Paul's Impact on Critical Thinking.

CHAIR: David Wright (Sam Houston State University)

SPEAKERS: Donald Hatcher (Baker University)  
Title: "Richard Paul and the Philosophical Foundations of Critical Thinking"

Frank Fair (Sam Houston State University)  
Title: "Nosich on the Superiority of the Paul/Elder Approach to Critical Thinking"

Amanda Hiner (Winthrop University)  
Title: "Transformational Instruction: How Teaching Paulian Critical Thinking Fosters Authentic, Fair-Minded Student Research"

Kevin Possin (Winona State University)  
Title: "Thinking Critically about Paul's Critical Thinking"

For more information, please contact Kevin Possin, [kpossin@winona.edu](mailto:kpossin@winona.edu)

From Kevin: Paul's influence on the definition and teaching of critical thinking is undeniable, but not without criticism. Please join us for a lively discussion!

***Pacific:** AILACT Session at 2017 Pacific Division Meeting, April 12-15, 2017, Westin Seattle, Seattle, WA.*

CHAIR: Peter Tan, Mount Saint Mary's University, [ptan@msmu.edu](mailto:ptan@msmu.edu)

SPEAKER: Stephen Phillips, University of Texas at Austin, [phillips@mail.utexas.edu](mailto:phillips@mail.utexas.edu)  
Title: "Critical Reasoning in the Service of Knowledge: *Nyaya* according to the Nyaya School of Classical Indian Philosophy."

Commentator: Purushottama Bilimoria, Institute for South Asia Studies at University of California at Berkeley, [pbilimoria@berkeley.edu](mailto:pbilimoria@berkeley.edu)

For for information, please contact Peter Tan at [ptan@msmu.edu](mailto:ptan@msmu.edu)

**THE ASSOCIATION FOR INFORMAL LOGIC & CRITICAL THINKING**

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION OR RENEWAL FOR 2017**

AILACT was formed in 1983 to promote research on, and teaching and testing of, informal logic and critical thinking at all levels; to increase the extent and quality of such research, teaching, and testing; and to facilitate discussion among its members. AILACT sponsors sessions at each APA divisional meeting and other meetings; has a Web site, <http://ailact.wordpress.com/> that provides a wide variety of information about AILACT, informal logic, and critical thinking, and posts papers and other members' materials; has an e-mail discussion list for discussion of topics of interest to members; and holds an annual essay prize competition.

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I would like to become a member of AILACT (US\$10 or equivalent)

I would like to renew my membership (US\$10 or equivalent)

I am a student and would like to become a member of AILACT (Fees waived)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Institutional affiliation (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Payment Options:**            **Check:** Make checks (US or Canadian only) payable to AILACT

**Credit Card Payment:** Please deduct US \$10 from

Credit Card:     Visa     MasterCard

Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**PayPal:** log in to your account and send the payment to Don Hatcher's email address ([dhatcher@bakeru.edu](mailto:dhatcher@bakeru.edu)). PayPal will indicate that your payment is to AILACT.

**New members:** To complete the process of becoming a member of AILACT, you will need to register on AILACT's password-protected Member Area website: <http://ailact1.humanities.mcmaster.ca>. Click on "Register" and complete the listed fields. (These include "User name" and "Password." Make up a user name and a password.) Click on "Register." When your registration has been validated, you will receive an email saying that this has been done and explaining how to enter a profile for yourself on the site.

**Mail to:** Donald Hatcher, AILACT Treasurer, Department of Philosophy, Baker University, Baldwin City, KS 66006 USA. **Email:** <[dhatcher@bakeru.edu](mailto:dhatcher@bakeru.edu)>