

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

**Contents**

- 1. From the Editor**
- 2. From the President**
- 3. AILACT @ APA**
- 4. 2016 AILACT Essay Prize Call for Submissions**
- 5. Membership Form**

**From the Editor**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> European Conference on Argumentation—*Argument and inference* will be held June 20-23, 2017 in Fribourg Switzerland. The first call for papers can be found [here](#) and the deadline for abstract submission is October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016.

Planning is underway for the 2016/17 sessions of AILACT at the three APA meetings. Calls for papers and information about these sessions is available in section 3 below. This year's call for papers for the AILACT Essay Prize is printed below in section 4 or available at: <https://ailact.wordpress.com/essay-prize/>. The deadline of September 1 is coming up soon!

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 December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016 for potential inclusion in the December edition.

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University of Richmond  
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## From the President

I have much news to report. The biggest concerns how what we call the “Supertext Project” is developing. The book will be co-edited by J. Anthony Blair and Ralph Johnson from the University of Windsor. The purpose of the project is to counter misunderstandings of what teaching critical thinking involves and why the study of critical thinking theory and the scholarship of its teaching are both important. There will be an advisory board. Steve Patterson, Dona Warren, and Frank Fair have volunteered, the Board has approved them, and their names have been sent on to Tony and Ralph. One other person has been approved and we are waiting for that person’s confirmation. The project is a follow up on the innovation proposals AILACT has been considering since December 2015. In the Board’s view, it provides a feasible way to begin to realize the goals of that proposal. The project is the brain child of Michael Scriven. It is supported by the Faster Forward Fund and the University of Windsor. The recent OSSA conference in May devoted an hour long session to presenting the project, which is tentatively named “*The Critical Thinking Book.*” Its intended double function calls for two separate halves. Part A will be an anthology of source materials for teaching a critical thinking course, including reading and writing assignments. Each chapter would take approximately a week to cover. Part B will be on the meta-level, a collection of the best articles we can get on the theory of critical thinking, some already published and some new. The articles may also take account of developments in argumentation theory and informal logic. These essays could be suitable for advanced courses in the theory of critical thinking, logic, or argumentation. It should interest anyone with a serious concern with critical thinking, especially professionals and graduate students. It should also include responses to objections against the very legitimacy of critical thinking, for example that the subject is already taught in content courses, that there is no real content for critical thinking courses to teach, and that the area has no legitimacy as a discipline. Please keep in mind the themes of both parts and consider contributing to either or both. Both suggestions and actual contributions are solicited. FasterForwardFund.org offers more information on this project, and you may contact the editors at [tblair@uwindsor.ca](mailto:tblair@uwindsor.ca) or [johnsoa@uwindsor.ca](mailto:johnsoa@uwindsor.ca).

Turning to communication, AILACT has recently set up three mailing lists. All are housed at Hunter College. AILACT-L is for the president or persons specifically authorized by the president to send messages to the current membership. AILACTD-L is a discussion list to which anyone may post. AILACTE-L is for elections. It was used last fall for the Board elections. It is now in hibernation until the late summer and fall of 2017, the time of the next election. Only those determined eligible to vote by payment of recent dues will receive communications through AILACTE-L. In setting up AILACT-L last year, AILACT made as good faith effort as possible to bring the list up to date, since there were reports that some members never received communications. The AILACTD-L list may contain names of people who no longer want to be on the list. They can easily ask to be deleted. There may also be out of date addresses. The list was simply moved from York University to Hunter and the York list was set up some time ago. I want to thank Michael Gilbert for overseeing that list in the past. Michael will continue to oversee the ARGTHRY list, which will continue at York. That list is focused more on themes in informal logic and argumentation theory, in line with the interests of OSSA. For the present, I as AILACT President will oversee the lists at Hunter. We hope that any remaining problems with addresses can get worked out soon. To post to AILACTD-L, the

address is [AILACTD-L@hunter.listserv.cuny.edu](mailto:AILACTD-L@hunter.listserv.cuny.edu). Also in connection with communications, AILACT now has a Facebook page. You can view it at <https://www.facebook.com/ailact/>. Thanks to Steve Patterson for setting it up.

The Board has made several appointments recently and should make several more soon. Ben Hamby will be APA Eastern Division Representative for 2017-19. Peter Tan will remain as APA Pacific Division Representative for that term also. Thank you Ben for taking on this responsibility in addition to continuing as Essay Prize Publicist. Thank you Peter for agreeing to a second term. I am please to Announce that Marianne Doury will join the Essay Prize Jury for 2017-19, succeeding Lilian Bermejo Luque, whose term is expiring. The Board has also supported forming a Grant Writing Proposal Committee. There will be more to come about this in the November Newsletter, if not before.

Finally, congratulations to Steve Patterson for his work in getting a Critical Thinking area at *PhilPapers*. This is cause for celebration. It raises the visibility of critical thinking in the philosophy profession and advances the possibility of having a critical thinking AOS/AOC recognized for job ads in Philosophy. This is very good news indeed.

James Freeman  
President, AILACT

### **AILACT @ APA**

***Eastern Division: APA EASTERN DIVISION MEETING***

**Conference Date:** 1/4/2017 » 1/7/2017

**Location:** Baltimore, Maryland

**AILACT's session topic:** "Critical Thinking in Latin American Philosophy"

**Chair:** Anne Ashbaugh, Towson University

**Speaker:** Guillermo Hurtado, Instituto de Investigaciones Filosóficas, UNAM

**Title:** TBA

**Speaker:** Susana Nuccetelli, St. Cloud State University

**Title:** Skepticism about Latin American Philosophy and Critical Thinking

**Speaker:** Robert Sanchez – Mount Saint Mary's University

**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 Division: Call for Papers and Suggestions for the 2017 AILACT Group Session, at the Central Division APA Meeting, March 1-4, at the Sheraton Kansas City at Crown Center, Kansas City, MO:**

Please send your suggestions on any topic involving informal logic, critical thinking, or argumentation. Ideas regarding a guest speaker, panel discussion, author-meets-critic, or a joint session with another Group Meeting are welcome.

Come on people--there are issues galore out there waiting to be analyzed in terms of critical thinking and argumentation!

Emails of interest, papers, and names of confirmed speakers/panelists should be submitted by September 30, 2016, to the retiring Program Director, Kevin Possin, at [kpossin@winona.edu](mailto:kpossin@winona.edu)  
Please send papers as attachments in pdf or MS Word.

Please forward this invitation to anyone else you think might be interested in submitting or attending.

Kevin Possin, [kpossin@winona.edu](mailto:kpossin@winona.edu)

**Pacific Division:** For information about future AILACT Sessions at the Pacific APA, please contact Peter Tan at [ptan@msmu.edu](mailto:ptan@msmu.edu)

**2016 AILACT Essay Prize Call for Submissions**

The Association for Informal Logic and Critical Thinking (AILACT) invites submissions for the 2016 AILACT Essay Prize. This will be the 12th year in which the prize has been offered.

- Value: \$500 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, 2013 and September 1, 2016, are eligible. Maximum length: 6,000 words.
- Entries will be assessed on the basis of their argument, scholarship, style, and importance to the field.

- The jury members for the 2016 AILACT essay prize, approved by the AILACT Board of Directors, are Lilian Bermejo Luque, Research Fellow, Department of Philosophy, Universidad de Granada; Geoffrey Goddu, Professor of Philosophy, University of Richmond; Christopher Tindale, Professor of Philosophy, University of Windsor. The decision of the jury is final.
- To submit a paper, attach a PDF (preferred) 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](mailto:derekallen@trinity.utoronto.ca)) with a covering note giving your name and a mailing address. 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).
- There is a limit of one entry per author.
- The deadline for receipt of submissions is September 1, 2016. The winner will be announced by December 15, 2016. AILACT will publicize the name of the winner on its web site and at AILACT sessions held at APA divisional meetings in 2016 and 2017.
- For further information about the essay prize, please contact Ben Hamby ([bhamby@coastal.edu](mailto:bhamby@coastal.edu)).

\*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.

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

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION OR RENEWAL FOR 2016**

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)>