

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

August 2019

Contents

1. From the Editor
2. AILACT @ APA
3. CFP: AILACT Essay Prize 2019
4. CFP: OSSA 12
5. Membership Form

From the Editor

Greetings, Newsletter readers!

There is a description and lineup of speakers for the AILACT @ APA Eastern Division session below, as well as session descriptions and calls for proposals for the Central and Pacific sessions.

The call for the 2019 AILACT Essay Prize can also be found below. Unpublished papers and papers published after January 1st, 2016 are eligible. Deadline is September 1st, so get those papers polished up!

OSSA 12 will take place June 3rd-6th, 2020. It promises to be another great event, so be sure to get your abstracts in! Deadline is September 6th. See below for the call for proposals.

As always, there is a Membership Form at the end of this document. 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 that new members are now required to register on AILACT's online Member Area.

Please send me details regarding any news, events, or calls for papers that would be of interest to the AILACT readership by December 1st, for potential inclusion in the next newsletter.

Best,

Pat Bondy

patrick.bondy@wichita.edu

AILACT @ APA**Eastern Division****Argument diagrams: what are they and how should they be taught?**

Many textbooks in critical thinking feature the topic of argument diagrams and counsel students in their use. There is evidence that those who diagram arguments achieve a better understanding of arguments, *ceteris paribus*, than those who do not. Argument diagrams are said to capture the inferential structure of arguments—revealing that structure and bypassing details of the argument that may have nothing to do with it. This raises a question—just what is the inferential structure of an argument, and can it be diagrammed? There are many inferential relations between the sentences in an argument, but not all of them should be represented in a diagram, since some of those inferential relations may have nothing to do with the argument. Should each sentence in an argument be represented in an argument diagram? Or should the argument diagram capture inferential relations between generalizations of the sentential content of sets of sentences? Must a student understand the intentions of the arguer in order to satisfactorily diagram their argument? Should teaching argument diagrams—if it can be satisfactorily taught—be limited to critical thinking courses?

Chair

Lloyd Carr, Rivier University

Speakers

Nuhu Osman Attah, University of Pittsburgh

Nathan Otey, ThinkerAnalytix

Jonathan Haber, Degree of Freedom

Anne L'Hommedieu Sanderson, Harvard University

Jeff Buechner, Rutgers University-Newark and The Saul Kripke Center, CUNY, The Graduate Center

Central Division**Critical Thinking: Perspectives from Philosophy, Psychology, and Education**

Critical thinking is of intense interest to many philosophers, psychologists, and educators. The goal of this session is to explore:

- (a) the diversity of conceptualizations of what critical thinking importantly involves,
- (b) what recent psychological research can tell us about it, for example, what do we have good evidence to believe about how so-called "relational reasoning" works, and
- (c) what educational settings, materials, and techniques can foster critical thinking and how can the relative success of this enterprise of "ameliorative epistemology" be assessed?

The aim of the session is to provide a venue for representatives from philosophy, psychology, and education to share their thinking on these matters. Anyone interested in making a presentation or in suggesting someone to contact with an invitation to present should contact Frank Fair at psy_fkf@shsu.edu.

Pacific Division

CALL FOR PAPERS: AILACT @ the APA Pacific Division, April 8 – 11, 2020, San Francisco, CA

Deadline: October 1

We are now accepting proposals on any relevant topic for the Association for Informal Logic and Critical Thinking (AILACT) session to be held in conjunction with the upcoming Pacific Division meetings of the APA. Papers, papers-with-commentators, author-meets-critics, and panel discussions are all welcome. Send proposals or abstracts to ccusick@csufresno.edu by October 1st.

Essay Prize in Informal Logic/Critical Thinking/Argumentation Theory

CALL FOR PAPERS

The Association for Informal Logic and Critical Thinking (AILACT) invites submissions for the 2019 AILACT Essay Prize. This will be the 15th 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, 2016 and September 1, 2019 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 2019 AILACT essay prize, approved by the AILACT Board of Directors, are Marianne Doury, Researcher at the National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS), Paris; 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 after the first should be numbered.
- ***The deadline for receipt of submissions is September 1, 2019.*** The winner will be announced by December 15, 2019. AILACT will publicize the name of the winner on its web site and at AILACT sessions held at APA divisional meetings in 2020.
- 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.

OSSA 12

The Twelfth Conference of the Ontario Society for the Study of Argumentation

EVIDENCE, PERSUASION & DIVERSITY

University of Windsor – June 3 - 6, 2020

Keynote Speakers:

DEREK ALLEN

Philosophy, Trinity College
University of Toronto

JEAN GOODWIN

Communication Studies
North Carolina State University

CATARINA DUTILH NOVAES

Logic and Philosophy of the Cognitive Sciences
Free University of Amsterdam

Call for proposals:

Abstracts (title + 150 - 200 words), free from author-identifying marks, should be sent to <ossa@uwindsor.ca> with "OSSA proposal" in the subject line by Friday, September 6, 2019. Preference will be given to proposals that connect with the conference theme. The programme will have room for 90 papers. Notification of acceptance will be sent in November 2019.

The Conference will be preceded by a Summer Institute on Argumentation.

For information write to <crar@uwindsor.ca>.

OSSA 12 Conference information will be made available, as needed, on our website:

<http://www.uwindsor.ca/crar/353/ontario-society-study-argumentation>

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE:

Hans V. Hansen & Christopher W. Tindale

THE ASSOCIATION FOR INFORMAL LOGIC & CRITICAL THINKING

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION OR RENEWAL FOR 2019

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.

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). 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: <https://forum.ailact.org>. 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>