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*Scholarly Literature Report on Argumentation & Analyse du Discours*

**Formal Report**

*Argumentation & Analyse du Discours* discusses topics that unite argumentation theory, rhetoric, communication, and discourse theory. I studied 20 articles, spanning 4 issues over 2 years (2020 and 2021), closely reading the articles and noting recurring techniques and themes. Putting article page numbers into an Excel sheet and averaging revealed the average article is roughly 17 and quarter pages. The majority of articles had single authorship, representing 80 percent of the sample, and of the 4 articles with collaborative authorship, only 1 involved more than 2 authors. The data collection process, in addition to determining these things, primarily meant taking notes on recurring themes, analysis techniques, and approaches. In particular, for every article I noted 3 constitutive elements: the discourses or fields involved in approach (e.g. theology, politics, or history), actual methods and kinds of evidence used (e.g. case studies, linguistic, close readings, or use of corpora), and distinctive and descriptive focuses (e.g. specifics cultures, historical events, and social norms described by articles).

The journal sample combines argumentation, rhetorical, and communicative theory scholarship with broad topics of politics, history, religion, the sciences, and languages. Issues studied, however, we're *very* specialized and themed. Issue 24 focused on calls to mercy found in discourse, with *every* article discussing how pity and compassion materialize in public spaces, even though articles varied greatly in approach from focus in language and linguistics (Soares; Koren), to religion (Edelstein, Rabatel), to historical movements (Maingueneau; Doury). Issue 25 focused on social discourses and rationality regimes, with all articles discussing historical ways of rational thinking, despite articles crossing borders of religion, politics, and history, such

as traditional Talmudic texts (Schwarz), critique throughout time of the counter-factual (Angenot), Canadian environmentalism (Turbide), modern fake news (Danblon), ancient Chinese law (Shi'er), or differences between cultures generally (Bouvier; Tindale). Issue 26 focused on the development of authority in online spaces (especially social media and forums), with variety such as French and Canadian political dissent of traditional authority (Molinari; Gern; Sadoun-Kerber), new capitalist authorities like influencers (Vicar; Attruia), and new medical authorities like forum glioblastoma patients (Charbonneaux). Of Issue 27, only 1 article was sampled, but all articles in that issue clearly follow the trend of thematization, in this case all about tourism, with Sela looking at religious tourism to Israel from African countries.

From a methodology standpoint, the majority (a whopping 13 sources, or 65 percent) involved case studies relying upon close-readings of documented, past argumentative writings; this was followed by methods more theoretical (a minority of 7 sources, or 34 percent), involving lengthy analysis either by extending past argumentation theorist's language (such as Perelman and other argumentation scholars) or by summarizing previous nontheorist's language (such as journalists, dictionaries, or online posts). In either method, a mix created and used a corpus of written examples (think journalistic articles, Youtube comments, and dictionary definitions) to study and to demonstrate conclusions; one (Danblon) even uses an experiment with participants enlisted in a scenario to study argumentative discourse. The major conclusions here might be that the study of argumentation benefits from working through specific, individual arguments, and that argumentative trends can also be studied by synthesizing general arguments taken from a corpus.

As the paragraph that summarizes issues and their themes demonstrates, the scholarly questions of these articles capture and catalog a wide variety of discourse communities and

types. However, these articles, beyond being united by individual issue themes, are united in that all ask the question of how specific kinds of argument manifest. I think, given the heterogeneity of scholarly items (e.g. politics, religion, culture), the commonality found in methods demonstrates that the dataset's argumentation scholarly questions focus on historical events to discuss or formulate theory. Less broadly, these articles both show historical argumentative trends and why argument is heavily dependent upon historical norms, which is why topics can vary, because items like politics, religion, and history are all different manifestations of norms. Even more specifically, the issues studied demonstrate specific argument norms through common tropes in the articles, like how the internet constructs and reforms authority, how pity is closely related to religion on a linguistic (e.g. "piety") level as well as historical, and how rationality is rooted in ways of thinking promulgated by culture.

I would describe *Argumentation & Analyse du Discours* as a journal that uses discourse communities both to discuss specific arguments and to demonstrate common issues in argumentation that show up across discourses, spheres, and fields.

## **Executive Summary**

*Argumentation & Analyse du Discours* discusses topics that unite argumentation theory, rhetoric, communication, and discourse theory. I studied 20 articles, spanning 4 issues over 2 years (2020 and 2021), closely reading the articles and noting recurring techniques and themes. Putting article page numbers into an Excel sheet and averaging revealed the average article is roughly 17 and quarter pages. The majority of articles had single authorship, representing 80 percent of the sample, and of the 4 articles with collaborative authorship, only 1 involved more than 2 authors.

The journal sample combines argumentation, rhetorical, and communicative theory scholarship with broad topics of politics, history, religion, the sciences, and languages. Issues studied, however, we're *very* specialized and themed; one focused on calls to mercy found in discourse, another on social discourses and rationality regimes, one on the development of authority in online spaces, and one on arguments in tourism.

The majority used, as a method, case studies with close-readings, while the minority used summary of theory and writers, in either case often constructing a discourse corpus. The scholarly questions of these articles look at several discourse communities. However, beyond individual issue themes, they unite in that all ask the question of how specific kinds of argument manifest. These articles both show historical argumentative trends and why argument is heavily dependent upon historical norms. The issues studied demonstrate specific historical argument norms, like how the internet constructs and reforms authority, how pity is closely related to religion on a linguistic (e.g. "piety") level, and how rationality is rooted in ways of thinking promulgated by culture.

I would describe *Argumentation & Analyse du Discours* as a journal that uses discourse communities both to discuss specific arguments and to demonstrate common issues in argumentation that show up across discourses, spheres, and fields.

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