What's hot in... argumentation theory

Wagemans, J.H.M.

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There's a new guy in town, or I should say a new player in the field of mathematical philosophy: the Munich Center for Mathematical Philosophy, aka MCMP. You probably heard rumors about it, saw some announcements for positions being sent around, or met some of its concrete instantiations (viz. its new members). Now it's time for a proper introduction.

The MCMP is first and foremost under the auspices of Hannes Leitgeb. His Alexander von Humboldt Professorship Grant created the Center. It was thus natural to give him the first words, resulting in the short interview below. The members of the MCMP's initial team also kindly accepted to fill in a short questionnaire to introduce themselves. This, overall, gives quite a good impression of the exciting social and scientific environment that is now being created in Munich.

Looking forward to seeing you there!

Olivier Roy
Munich Center for Mathematical Philosophy

Interview with the Munich Center for Mathematical Philosophy

Thanks to Barbara Pöhlmann for her help. For more information about the MCMP, including announcements of positions currently open at the Center, please have a look at the website.

Olivier Roy: Thanks so much for giving us this interview for The Reasoner. Let us start with basic facts: what is the Munich Center of Mathematical Philosophy?

Hannes Leitgeb: It is a new Center based at LMU Munich which is funded primarily by the German Alexander von Humboldt Foundation and which is concerned with applications of logical and mathematical methods in philosophy. Obviously it is not in any sense
... Argumentation Theory

Over the past few years, several research groups in the field of argumentation theory have started to refine and extend their theoretical frameworks in such a way that they can be applied to specific communicative contexts. The urge to do so is related to the fact that in the analytical and evaluative tools developed so far, the various institutional conventions that may apply to the different argumentative practices have not been accounted for.

A few examples of comprehensive research projects pertaining to argumentation in context are the following. In Switzerland, scholars working at the Università della Svizzera italiana focus on the development of tools for the analysis and evaluation of argumentation in the medical context and the financial context. Scholars from the Université de Neuchâtel concentrate on the analysis of argumentation in the educational context. In the Netherlands, scholars of the University of Amsterdam have developed a theoretical framework that enables the analysis and evaluation of “strategic maneuvering” in a number of contexts. In their research, they concentrate on argumentation in the legal, the political, the medical, and the academic context.

Following on these developments, a new journal called the Journal of Argumentation in Context will be launched later this year.

Jean H.M. Wagemans
University of Amsterdam