Internet political discussion forums as an argumentative activity type: A pragma-dialectical analysis of online forms of strategic manoeuvring in reacting critically

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Three other members of the Department of Speech Communication, Argumentation Theory and Rhetoric at the University of Amsterdam belong to the context of discovery of the ideas discussed in this book. My interest into the problem of contextual embeddedness of everyday argumentation was initiated in the excellent class on verbal communication taught by Agnès van Rees back in 2005. This interest was further deepened and extended during my work with Francisca Snoeck Henkemans, who supervised my master’s thesis that partly addressed the issues studied in the PhD thesis. Apart from being a careful supervisor, Francisca has kept correcting my English pronunciation; the resulting improvements, unfortunately, do not really show in the book (but it is better). Finally, Peter Houtlosser, though never directly involved in my work, until his untimely death in 2008 gave me a very precious chance to get involved in discussions on a whole range of topics: from procedural starting points in a critical discussion to underground music.

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