SwissUniversities Doctoral Programme Language & Cognition

Module: Linguistic and corpus perspectives on argumentative discourse

UNIFR — UNIVERSITÉ DE FRIBOURG / UNIVERSITÄT FREIBURG

PRAGLAB

WHAT

Over the last few decades, computational and empirically-driven approaches to the analysis of language and discourse relations have flourished. One subfield of this area of research, namely argument mining, has gained prominence in the last few years in research communities at the interface of linguistics, argumentation theory and artificial intelligence. Typical objects of study in the field are concerned with the identification of argumentative relations (and of their linguistic realisation) in natural discourse, the representation of argumentative structures therein, and the assessment of argument quality.

In this workshop, the role and function of linguistic aspects of argumentative discourse will be tackled from such empirically-driven perspectives. Questions like the following will be addressed: when we set out to design automated methods of (large amounts of) data processing, what difficulties do we face when it comes to the study of argumentative relations? What kind of linguistic indicators do we focus on and what difficulties does the identification of argumentative strings pose in this endeavour? How do we go from manual to automated annotation? How do we tag and visualise argumentative structures? How far can we go in the mapping of argumentative relations, based on the linguistic input? How do we tackle implicit meaning partaking in the construction of argumentative material?

The workshop will appeal to researchers working with empirical methods of language analysis and scholars interested in the study of argumentation. Colleagues and students with an interest in discourse and corpus analysis are all welcome, as the topics that will be discussed have ramifications towards artificial intelligence, linguistics, semantics, pragmatics and cognitive science.

The workshop will be an opportunity to get better acquainted with the research of our guest speakers. The tutorial sessions will allow participants to start using the argumentation mining technologies and methodologies presented in the workshop and to discuss their own work with the guest speakers.

WHO

Prof. *Jodi Schneider* (*University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign, US*)
Prof. *Chris Reed* (*University of Dundee, UK*)

Our guests are two leading and prolific experts in the field. Prof. Jodi Schneider recently published a co-authored monograph on argument mining and has extensively researched knowledge organisation, information quality and linked data. Prof. Chris Reed is head of the ARG-tech lab, which is involved in a number of projects on argument mining, visualisation and analysis that regularly bridge the gap between academia and other domains and institutions (media, politics).

WHEN

The module will take place on Monday 2 September and Tuesday 3 September 2019.

WHERE

This module is offered at the University of Fribourg and hosted by the PragLab research team. Venue: University of Fribourg Campus, room TBA.

Registration

15 doctoral students can take part in this module. The registration deadline is on 30 August 2019. The programme reimburses travel expenses as well as meals and a fixed hotel rate of 90CHF/night for participants affiliated with a Swiss university.
This workshop can be used towards obtaining course credits.
In order to register, you should contact the coordinator heidi.aro@unifr.ch.

Contact

All practical and administrative questions should be addressed to the programme coordinator, Mrs Heidi Aro, at heidi.aro@unifr.ch
More information (incl. schedule) can be found here.

Organisation

The SwissUniversities doctoral programme *Language & Cognition* is organised by the University of Fribourg with the collaboration of the University of Bern and the University of Neuchâtel.

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Monday 2 September 2019, MIS 2122AB		
09:30-09:45	D. Maillat	Welcome and introduction
09:45-10:30	J. Schneider	Lecture 1
10:30-10:50	Coffee Break (Mensa)	
10:50-12:00	J.Schneider	Lecture 1 + question session
12:00-13:30	Lunch (Mensa)	
13:30-14:15	C. Reed	Lecture 2
14:15-14:35	Coffee Break (Mensa)	
14:35-15:45	C. Reed	Lecture 2 + question session

Tuesday 3 September 2019, MIS 2122AB		
10:00-10:45	C. Reed	Tutorial 1, part 1
10:45-11:15	Coffee Break (Mensa)	
11:15-12:00	C. Reed	Tutorial 1, part 2
12:00-13:30	Lunch (Mensa)	
13:30-14:15	J. Schneider	Tutorial 2, part 1
14:15-14:45	Coffee Break (Mensa)	
14:45-15:35	J. Schneider	Tutorial 2, part 2

19:00	Dinner at *Les Menteurs*, Passage du Cardinal 1, 1700 Fribourg lesmenteurs.ch