



Report on COST Agreement Technologies WG4 (Argumentation and Negotiation) Panel

Time and date: 5pm 10/09/2010

Location: Desenzano del Garda (Italy)

Chair : S. Modgil

The WG4 working group on *argumentation and negotiation* organised a panel session at the 3rd International Conference on Computational Models of Argument (www.ing.unibs.it/comma2010/). The following speakers were invited to present their work on each of the main areas within the COST action:

- A. Hunter, University College London ([Argumentation and Semantics](#))
- H. Prakken, Utrecht University and University of Groningen ([Argumentation and Norms](#))
- I. Rahwan, Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Masdar Institute ([Argumentation and Organisations](#))
- L. Amgoud, IRIT, Université Paul Sabatier (Argumentation and Negotiation)
- F.Toni, Imperial College London ([Argumentation and Trust](#))

L. Amgoud was not able to attend, but the remaining speakers each attended and made brief presentations of recent work, emphasising open problems to be addressed in each of the above areas.

The panel sessions was very well attended, with upwards of 25 people attending. Two attendees (in academic areas not involving argumentation) were each funded 150 Euros in order to help with their travel costs.

Each presentation was followed by questions from other panel members and the attendees. The panel session was very successful in stimulating debate, and in particular highlighting issues to be addressed in order to enhance prospects for development of argumentation based theories and technologies in the areas of norms, ontologies, trust, and in social settings (organisations). Two key themes emerged:

- 1) There was a general consensus that emperical studies of human interaction with argumentative concepts was required in order to inform development of theories and

technologies. I. Rahwan reported on the conclusions of some such studies that he had carried out.

- 2) There was a general consensus that more efforts were required in order to generate results capable of convincing researchers in non-argumentation domains of the added value of argumentation theory and its technological application. This was emphasised by A.Hunter in his talk on resolving conflicts amongst different ontologies. F. Toni also reported on metrics demonstrating the added value that argumentation can bring (though augmenting statistical measures) to computing the trustworthiness of agents.

The panel session concluded with drinks, during which discussion continued related to the above themes continued. The panel organisers have been given approval to edit a special issue of *The Journal of Logic and Computation*, inviting the panel speakers to submit journal papers expanding on the topics presented at the panel.