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SHORT TERM SCIENTIFIC MISSION

BRIEF

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Grantee name: Thierry Herman, Home Institutions: University of Neuchâtel and University of Lausanne, CH

Host Institution: Pr.- Jean Wagemans, LANCAR group, University of Amsterdam, NE

Research Interest:

In his teaching and research, Thierry Herman has developed a series of ideas for analyzing argumentation as it occurs in ordinary texts, with great attention to linguistic structures in an "argumentative cell" (Plantin). Refining the methodological tools to analyze the rhetorical and argumentative stakes in a persuasive text is often the central thrust of his research.

STSM Summary

One of the main goals of this mission was to be able to match the needs of philosophical analysis of argumentation with the linguistic description of argumentation as it occurs in texts, in order to be able to apply the procedure described by Wagemans (Argument Type Identification Procedure or ATIP). The aim was to single out and refine the first steps of this procedure in a new procedure called the ADEP (Argument Detection Procedure). The first results are promising and make it possible to analyse segments of text that have so far resisted examination.

The tools developed by Herman and Wagemans will be of significant interest to the COST Working Group 1 in the sense that the empirical examination of argumentation has clearly been one of the main focus. But the emphasis on counter-arguments and counter-claims in the analysis has also made it possible to highlight the opposing norms between opponents in the argument. Considering counter-arguments that are not decisive implies a 'weight' of arguments that is central to the analysis of the quality of projected arguments or the hierarchy of norms. Analysing how counter-arguments are rejected or conceded is an important step for analysing the qualities or arguments and counter-arguments. Thus, it is a valuable asset for WG2.

The development of procedural questions for the description of actual arguments „in the wild", in a systematic way, has led to integrate models or micro-maps of an argument that are effective in describing argumentative movements. These micro-maps allow to lay a better foundation to

the reconstruction of arguments, for example by eliciting implicit propositions or by taking better account of dialectical oppositions.

In the longer term, Wagemans and Herman intend to present a lecture presenting the approach, once tested and refined, in a forthcoming argumentation conference and to co-author a paper on the subject.