The Argumentum Model of Topics (AMT) approach to argumentative inference - 8h

In the context of the doctoral programme in Applied Linguistics: Managing Languages, Arguments and Narratives in the Datafied Society (LAND)

Schedule:
- **25 January** 2024 from 13:30 to 18:00 (including breaks)
- **26 January** 2024 from 9:00 to 12:30 (including breaks)
- Place: USI, room TBA
- Lecturer: Professor Sara Greco

This seminar is primarily designed for in-person interaction. Online participation is allowed but please consider that the level of engagement might not be equally high, especially during the moments of discussion. Whenever possible, you are encouraged to participate in person.

This seminar introduces the Argumentum Model of Topics as a theoretical and methodological instrument for the analysis of argumentative inference in a variety of communication contexts (Rigotti & Greco, 2019). The contents include a presentation of the core elements of the AMT model and critical reflection on the reasons why it was designed, its purposes and the types of analysis it does (and does not) support. In particular, the following aspects will be considered:

- The AMT potential to reconstruct implicit components of argumentative inference starting from explicit discursive aspects: advantages, limits of interpretation and open questions.
- Positioning of the AMT within contemporary argumentation studies and its relationship with the ancient and medieval tradition. Why did we start from the tradition? Why was this model designed starting in 2004? Given the many approaches to argument schemes that are available, is there a "need" for the AMT, and in what contexts?
- Why does the AMT distinguish between a "material-contextual component" and a "procedural-inferential component"? What are the implications of this distinction?
- Why does the AMT distinguish between loci *and* maxims?
- What are the purposes of the AMT? Is it an analytical tool or can it also be used for designing argumentative interventions?
- And, at a meta-level: what does it mean to *build* an argumentation model? What are the lessons learned from an author's perspective?

The ultimate goal of this seminar is that, ideally, to give sufficient training to each participant to use the AMT with competence to analyze argumentative inference, while discussing its rationale and the decisions that led to this model. The lecturer's desire and ambition are that, even for those who will not decide to adopt the AMT eventually for their empirical work during the PhD, this short seminar will still be useful to reflect on

some core issues of argumentation studies, such as inference, implicit and explicit content, empirical argumentation analysis and its relation to argumentative design, and the relation of contemporary approaches with the tradition of argumentation studies.

The seminar is designed both for students who are proficient users of the AMT and for novices who have never used the AMT before but are interested in argumentation analysis and the reconstruction of inference. While the lecturer will prepare a presentation of the model from her perspective of an author, dialogue during the course (including critical objections, questions, points for further reflection) is encouraged (see "Preparation" below).

Main reference
Rigotti, E., & Greco, S. (2019). *Inference in argumentation: A topics-based approach to argument schemes*. Springer (Argumentation Library).

Preparation
1. Only for those participants who have not worked with the AMT before:
   o Please read Chapter 6 of the monograph *Inference in argumentation: A topics-based approach to argument schemes*.
2. For everyone:
   o Think of <u>one</u> question that you have on the AMT.
   o Think of <u>one</u> example (please no more than one) of a short (verbal or multimodal) text or even just a standpopoint + argument couple that you would like to analyze with the AMT as an exercise. The analysis does *not* need to be done in advance.

Please **send both to <u>sara.greco@usi.ch</u> by January 10, 2024**. Time is short but point (2) is not meant to take more than 30 minutes of your time.