

CONTROVERSIA:
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(Translated into Russian by Svetlana Kalinskaya) Marilyn J. Young

“The Argumentation Theorist in Deliberative Democracy” William Rehg

Proponents of “deliberative democracy” hold that legitimate political decisions should issue from a process of public discourse or dialogue in which citizens, adopting a civic standpoint oriented toward the common good, assess the arguments for and against various political proposals. In this article I address the question of how argumentation theorists can positively influence the quality of public deliberation. I propose that higher education provides a broader opportunity for such influence than the highly demanding role of public intellectual. To achieve influence as educators, however, argumentation theorists must aim to impart skills or habits that transfer beyond the classroom. Drawing on comprehensive models of argumentation, I sketch such a pedagogy, specifically one that aims at a habit of comprehensive attentiveness and a capacity to raise some key critical questions. I then specify the kind of deliberative role that theorists achieve when citizens actually use the theorists’ models.

“The Argumentation Theorist in Deliberative Democracy” William Rehg
(Translated into Russian by Svetlana Kalinskaya)

Russian language abstract here

“Democracy and Argumentation” Frans H. van Eemeren

The problems of young democracies can be confronted only with a more participatory democracy. Still, participation will only work if adequate dialectical procedures for public discourse can be developed, allowing for a methodical critical discussion. Whether differences can be resolved by means of argument also depends on people’s attitudes and competences and the realization of certain social and political principles.

“Manifest Destiny on a Global Scale:
The U.S. War on Terrorism” Carol Winkler

The war on terrorism becomes an international site of controversy when America’s European allies raise concern over the U.S. military’s treatment of al-Qaida and Taliban detainees at Guantanamo Bay. Grounded in Kathryn Olsen’s and Thomas Goodnight’s perspective that “controversy” serves as a lens for identifying argumentative rules and presumptions, this essay examines the Bush administration’s rhetoric as a renegotiation of the discussion parameters for governments engaged in asymmetrical conflicts. It argues that the administration’s approach transposes the doctrine of manifest destiny into the global arena. Paralleling the early experience of the U.S. with Native Americans, the U.S. government develops an argumentation strategy that denies individual, national, and religious identity to those who impede the progress of civilization.

“Foreign Policy Challenges and the Historical ‘Anchors’ of the Russian Federation Foreign Policy after September 11, 2001” Alexei M. Salmin
(translated into English by Michael Launer)

This essay discusses the development of foreign policy decision making mechanisms in the Russian Federation since the fall of the Soviet Union and the specific changes that have occurred since the events of September 11, 2001. The analysis highlights the dominant institutional players both within the governmental structure and the private sector.

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Notes on Contributors