AMoRe KICK-OFF WORKSHOP
AMoRE: An Argumentative Model of Rephrase: Pragmatic and Rhetorical Approach

10 March 2022, Warsaw

Warsaw University of Technology
Main Building, Plac Politechniki 1, room 206
WiFi: *konferencja*
password: *politechnika2020*

The workshop can be followed online via Zoom:
https://zoom.us/j/94118594117?pwd=UFRaai9yVk1LTWF1YnpSM01lRmdUdz09

Workshop Programme	
9:00-9:10	Welcome
9:10-9:50	*Aims and scope of the AMoRe project* Marcin Koszowy (Warsaw) & Steve Oswald (Fribourg)
9:50-10:30	*Rephrase in use: Pathotic and structural aspects* *Barbara* Konat (Poznań)
10:30-10:50	**Coffee break**
10:50-11:30	*Analyzing argumentative framing: A frame-semantic approach* *Elena Musi* (Liverpool)
11:30-12.10	*Exploratory remarks on properties of reformulation* Thierry Herman (Neuchâtel)
12:10-12:50	*Rephrase, reformulation, paraphrase: A brief investigation into the state of the art* / Ramy Younis (Fribourg)
12:50-15:00	**Lunch break**
15:00-15:40	*Misuses of rephrase: Straw man and begging the question* Marcin Koszowy & Katarzyna Budzynska (Warsaw)
15:40-16:20	*Experimental methods in argumentation* Jennifer Schumann (Fribourg & Bern)
16:20-16:40	**Coffee break**
16:40-17:50	*Round table discussion*
17:50-18:00	*Workshop closing*

Project Summary
[AMoRE] An Argumentative Model of Rephrase: Pragmatic and Rhetorical Approach

On August 13, 2019, upon announcing his new restrictive immigration regulations, Ken Cuccinelli, acting director of US Citizenship and Immigration Services, was asked on National Public Radio whether he agrees that "Emma Lazarus' words, etched on the Statue of Liberty 'Give me your tired, your poor' are also part of the American ethos", Cuccinelli replied: "They certainly are: give me your tired and your poor who can stand on their own two feet and who will not become a public charge". This is an instance of misuse of rephrase, in which the speaker presents a contribution as compatible with an original statement, while altering its content for rhetorical gain. The misleading nature of this example is quite blatant, but subtler ones might have consequences extending beyond the linguistic level, as resulting epistemic deficits might turn into actual democratic deficits. **Existing research on rephrase strategies is scarce**, and no full account of this particular speech act and of its uses in public argumentative discourse is available in the language sciences and the philosophy of language. This project accordingly strives to produce it.

In terms of **fundamental research**, the project's interdisciplinary nature (i) provides the first empirically-driven, theoretically-informed and experimentally-validated account of the speech act of rephrase and (ii) constitutes the first interdisciplinary study to combine corpus and experimental methodologies in speech act theoretic pragmatics. The pedagogical objective of AMoRe is to publicise a better understanding of rephrase in argumentation in order to stimulate resistance to its misuse and contribute to ongoing communicative literacy efforts. In terms of networking, this project strengthens the Polish/Swiss research connection (and their respective research networks), thereby contributing to a renewed and sustained synergy between the academic communities represented in the project.

The work plan is split into **four steps**. Strand 1 of the project elaborates a working model of the speech act of rephrase in argumentative discourse. Strand 2 applies corpus methodologies in the analysis of 3 different genres (political debate, mediation discourse and the social media ChangeMyViev forum) to supply linguistic evidence for (i) types of rephrase compositions and (ii) types of communicative intentions and strategies involved in rephrase. Strand 3 provides experimental cognitive evidence for specific effects of rephrase (persuasion, comprehension and misleading). Strand 4 delivers the first fullfledged interdisciplinary model of the speech act of rephrase.

We expect to provide an **exhaustive cartography of the nature, structures and effects of rephrase in argumentative discourse**. We anticipate that (i) our model of rephrase (and its misuse) will yield new rephrase corpora building guidelines ready for implementation in AI argument technologies (argument mining and argument analytics) and (ii) that misuses of rephrase will be shown to be rhetorically effective by virtue of their various cognitive advantages. In terms of scientific impact, AMoRe will demonstrate the relevance of interdisciplinary research to (i) deepen our understanding of the speech act of rephrase, and, more broadly, (ii) investigate argumentative phenomena at the interface of language and cognition, with clear benefits for all scientific communities AMoRe brings together (linguists, philosophers, argumentation theorists, psychologists). In terms of societal impact, the project promises to make accessible novel resources for digital literacy and critical analysis of public discourse, which are invaluable in the exercise of citizenship and public deliberation.

This is an interdisciplinary project which combines **corpus methodologies** (Polish team) and **experimental methodologies** (Swiss team). We bring together a team at the Laboratory of The New Ethos of the Warsaw University of Technology (Marcin Koszowy, Katarzyna Budzynska, Joanna Skolimowska), the Department of English at the University of Fribourg (Steve Oswald, Jennifer Schumann, Ramy Younis), project partners: Pascal Gygax (Fribourg, CH), Thierry Herman (Neuchâtel, CH), Barbara Konat (Poznań, PL), and members of the AMoRe International Advisory Board: Isabela Fairclough (Lancaster, UK), Jean Goodwin (North Carolina, US), Annette Hautli-Janisz (Passau, DE), Elena Musi (Liverpool, UK), Benno Stein (Weimar, DE), and Christopher Tindale (Windsor, CA).