

# ISSA Proceedings 2002 - The Dialectical Tier Revisited



## 1. Introduction

Since I originally proposed that arguments require a dialectical tier, many commentators have weighed in with objections and challenges. Originally Govier (1997/98;1999), then Leff (1999/2000), Hitchcock (2000/2002), Tindale (2002/2002), Groarke (2000/2002), Hansen (2000/2002), van Rees (2001) and Wyatt (2001) - to mention just those who have gone on record with objections to that proposal **[i]**.

Now, here, in this auspicious setting, it does seem propitious, even incumbent upon me, to say something about how I now view that proposal, perhaps taking this opportunity to repent of my sins. For Govier has said that the requirement of the dialectical tier, as I have stated it, leads to an infinite regress - “a staircase that mounts forever” (233) which would not be a “Stairway to Heaven” but rather a descent into Hell.

I intend to take this occasion to respond to some of these objections and criticisms, as well as to share some thoughts they have set in motion. I will begin by revisiting the proposal, briefly, particularly with respect to its purpose. Since the division of labour in argumentation theory into logical, dialectical and rhetorical dimensions seems to have gained a certain level of acceptance among argumentation theorists with **[ii]**, I have decided to use that division to structure most of my response. Accordingly, I will first look at an objection that is *logical* in character (that of Govier), then to one that is *rhetorical* (that of Leff); and finally to one that is *dialectical* (that of van Rees). After indicating how I propose to respond to these three objections, I want to look at what difference the proposal makes and the broader issues it raises for argumentation theory.

## 2. The rationale for the proposal

The rationale for the proposal had its origins in our efforts (more than 30 years ago) to teach to logic to undergraduates in a university setting. [By “our” here I mean Johnson and Blair and other informal logicians.] We began with the tradition in which we had been raised which I have baptized FDL **[iii]**. According to that account, a good argument is a sound argument: an argument that is valid

and all of whose premises are true. In this tradition, we find argument typically defined as: “a sequence of propositions one of which follows from the others.” We were not alone in experiencing difficulties teaching this sort of approach to logic to our students in the late 60s who demanded relevance and who wanted logic to help them appraise the arguments they came across in their attempts to deal with the issues of the day[iv].

It seemed to us that extant logical theory did not provide the sort of theory that would underwrite such efforts. We were struck by a number of *gaps* between that theory and argumentative practice. In real life arguments have various purposes; but no mention of purpose in FDL. In real life arguments, we often have to go with premises that are not known to be true (Hamblin); no provision for that in FDL. In real life, good arguments often fall short of validity; no provision for that in FDL. In real life, there are good arguments for and good arguments against a particular proposition or proposal (Hamblin); no provision for that in FDL. In real life, good arguments typically confront objections and other dialectical material; but no mention of that in FDL.

In making such observations, we were simply noticing the sorts of problems that had been discussed in the work of Toulmin (1958), Perelman (1958/1969) and Hamblin (1970). We found allies in our attempt to achieve reforms in logical theory and practice in the work of Kahane (1971) and Scriven (1976), and throughout the 80s in various papers (see Johnson and Blair, 1983) such we attempted to develop a better theory which we termed informal logic. We were assisted in that effort by two developments. In the early 80s we made a connection between our project and the critical thinking movement in North America - an attempt to install the critical thinking skills to a more prominent place in higher education.

In the middle 80s and directly because of the connection that Tony forged with Frans and Rob, we became ever more aware of the many different initiatives outside of logic, among them the pragma-dialectical approach to argumentation, and the broad international and multidisciplinary community working on argumentation theory.

How this latter awareness affected us may perhaps be seen in our 1987 paper “Argumentation as Dialectical” (Johnson 1996: 87-102) where the seeds of the proposal regarding the dialectical tier may be found (100-101) (I don’t propose here to discuss the genesis of the idea[v]). However, even with the attempts at reform we were making, it seemed to me that the very idea of argument found in

our theory one which we had downloaded from FDL) remained, to my way of thinking, too mathematicized, too enervated, and that notion set me on the path of fortification which I announced in my 1990 ISSA paper and which I then attempted to provide in *Manifest Rationality*. I explained there that one important motivation for my attempt at reconceptualization was my belief that argument as a vehicle for rational persuasion has much to recommend itself to a world in which there are such deep divisions about vital issues, but in which force and violence are seen as increasingly unattractive as options. I expressed my fear that the human community would not be much moved to turn to this important resource as long as logical theorizing remained fettered to an approach to argument in which the ideal remained that of sound argument - a view not attractive in a world of uncertainty and competing allegiances, where proof and refutation are not to be thought of except perhaps among dogmatists. In such a world, we need a theory of argument that gives proper credit to arguments which, if not sound, are yet good, or good enough, and to arguments in which the arguer acknowledges and comes to terms with what I call dialectical obligations.

Part of that rethinking[**vi**] took the form proposing that dealing with one's dialectical obligations is an essential component of the very idea of argument, robustly considered. Arguments in the paradigmatic sense require a dialectical tier in which the arguer discharges his or her dialectical obligations: i.e., anticipate objections, deals with alternative positions, etc[**vii**]. That proposal had the following two presuppositions. First, the focusing is on the use of argument to achieve rational persuasion. Argument has many other uses, as Blair, Goodwin, Walton, and Wenzel and many others have reminded me. Second, the focus in the first instance is on argument as it expresses itself in texts (such as found in newspaper editorials, journal articles, books etc), as distinguished from an oral argument between two participants, which is what Dialogue Logics (such as Barthe & Krabbe, 1882, and Walton & Krabbe, 1995)) and the pragma-dialectical approach take as their focal point (This is roughly the distinction between product-driven and process-driven theories).

In summary, then, the proposal regarding the dialectical tier originated in reflection on the limitations of the logical approach to argument, and at the same time a desire to bring the conception of argument in line with best practices and fortify it.

The justification for the proposal emerges from reflection on the requirements of

rational persuasion. If in order to persuade you must provide evidence and reasons, and if such persuasion takes place in the context of controversy, then it seems clear that to do the job you must also deal with dialectical matters. The same justification that requires the illative core also requires the dialectical tier; the demands that generate the illative core also generate the dialectical tier.

If you ask me for examples of arguments that satisfy this proposal, that have a dialectical tier, I would mention Aquinas's arguments for the existence of God in the *Summa Theologiae*, Mill's defense of freedom in expression in *On Liberty* (1864/1967), Martin Luther King's *Letter from a Birmingham Jail* (1964), and Stanley Fish's defense of affirmative action in *The Trouble with Principle* (1999). Many other examples which could be cited from both popular and academic fora [viii] (Of course, not all that we call argument takes this form, which is one of the many problems that attend the proposal).

In summary, then, the proposal regarding the dialectical tier originated in our attempt to move beyond the traditional logical perspective on argument and bring the conception more into line with best practices. The dialectical tier was never the end, just the means to an end. What end? To the end of calling to consciousness an aspect of the practice of argument that in my judgement had been overlooked in theorizing (though not in the practice nor even the teaching), viz., that the arguer has some obligation to deal with objections etc. The proposal might also be seen as a counterpoise to the tendency to broaden the range of argument. Groarke (1996) has argued forcefully that paintings and images can be included in the spectrum of argument, and Gilbert (1997) has argued that emotional and visceral modes of communication should also be included. If we are going to adjust our theories and approaches to include such specimens (which my proposal makes provision for), then it seems to me imperative - as a matter of balance - that we should also adjust in the other direction by featuring more developed forms - arguments with a dialectical tier.

### 3. *Some objections and my response*

I want now to turn to some of the objections that have been raised [ix].

#### A. *Response to Govier's objection*

Govier argues that the requirement that every argument have a dialectical tier leads to an infinite regress. She put the matter this way (1999: 232-33):

The regress problem seems to arise for Johnson's account because of his claim that *every argument is incomplete without a dialectical tier*. In my terminology,

this means that every arguer has a dialectical obligation to buttress his or her main argument with supplementary arguments responding to alternative positions and objections. Supplementary arguments are also arguments. Thus they too would appear to require supplementary arguments addressing alternatives and objections. Those supplementary-to-the-supplementary arguments, being again arguments, will require the same. And this line of reasoning can clearly be continued. Thus Johnson's view seems to imply an infinite regress.

This regress would appear to be intolerable. Surely it is not plausible to say that an arguer has an obligation to put forward an *infinite number* of arguments in order to build a good case for a single conclusion! On this interpretation, the dialectical tier would not be a tier; it would be a staircase that mounts forever. A theory demanding such an explosion is not a realistic or coherent one.

The regress objection can I think be met by a three-stage strategy. First, by pointing out that Govier overlooks is a qualification; that at least in MR, the proposal was not that every argument requires a dialectical tier but rather that the *paradigm case* of argument should display this structure (I admit that I am to blame for this confusion because the text is, if not inconsistent, at least confusing on this point[x]). My proposal allows that not all arguments will require a dialectical tier; but wants to call to the attention of logical theory the sort that we want our theory to cover[xi]. Second, by pointing out the parallel between the illative core and the dialectical tier. That is, the same line of reasoning that prevents an infinite regress in the illative core can also be deployed to prevent the exfoliation of the *dialectical tier*. Third, the regress can be avoided by specifying the contents of the dialectical tier more carefully, and this takes us into the broader issue of dialectical adequacy. The intuition here is that an argument is dialectically adequate just in case the argument contains an adequate treatment of the arguer's dialectical obligations [That means allowing that there may be arguments where the arguer does not have dialectical obligations].

This question breaks down into two relevant sub-questions:

Q1: *How are those dialectical obligations to be identified and specified[xii]?*

What sorts of dialectical material are there[xiii]? Typically, one thinks of objections and criticisms as the same, but might there not be a point in distinguishing them. Govier argues, rightly I think, that an objection is different than an alternative position (1999: 227-232.) But that presupposes an answer to

the question: What exactly is an objection? Strange to say, this obviously important question has not received much attention in the theory of argument[xiv]! Such questions are in need of further exploration, whether or not one subscribes to the dialectical tier.

Q2: *What is required for an argument to discharge these obligations?*

In other words, what are the criteria that the argument must satisfy in responding to objections and other forms of dialectical material?

The objections raised by Leff and van Rees provide an opportunity to engage with these crucial questions and thereby respond further to Govier's objection.

### *B. Response to Leff's objection*

In his keynote address to OSSA in 1999, Leff sought to carve out a place for what he calls dialectic, which he positions between logic (and its abstractness) and rhetoric (and its concrete ways). I cannot here follow the interesting path that Leff takes in his argument to revive dialectic. Rather I shall limit myself to his response to my proposal of a dialectical tier (1999: 5-9).

Leff says that the "concept is elegant" but notes that there are problems with it[xv]. Leff's complains that the idea "lacks situational ballast" (7). He says: "Johnson wants to construct an autonomous dialectical system that can encompass all instances of argument, and to achieve this end he must know the criteria for dialectical adequacy in advance of any particular case of dialectical argument" (7). Leff then floats the attractive thesis that the reason I have problems answering the question "Which objections?" is that this cannot be done in advance. One has to look at the situation, the details, which provide the ballast. Now there is something obviously right-minded about this reminder. How one deals with obligations will differ according as to the audience one is dealing with, the setting of the response, etc. But it seems equally clear to me that there is more to the story, as I shall shortly indicate.

Leff is certainly correct in pointing out that I seek to develop criteria for dialectical adequacy in advance of any argument, just as I (and others) have sought to develop criteria for adequacy of the illative core in advance of any particular argument[xvi].

The broader issue Leff is raising here is *that of how standards or criteria for the evaluation of arguments are to be developed*. That's a complicated and important issue, and yet another example of an issue that has not, it seems to me, thus far attracted sufficient attention from argumentation theorists[xvii]. Now I do not

believe that such criteria must be dictated a priori from an Olympian or heavenly standpoint, as Moses received the ten commandments from Yahweh. I find myself inclined to adopt the sort of approach that Dewey outlines whereby normative standards are extracted from the practice by judicious reflection and then dip back into the practice[xviii].

There is, I suspect, another aspect to Leff's complaint about lack of ballast; i.e., the proposal has not been anchored sufficient detail. Here it seems to me that Leff and I agree that our theorizing must be informed by and responsive not just to practice, but *best practices* - a theme he will develop in his keynote tomorrow. And therein lies the rub. For this right-minded suggestion raises the question of *how we will identify those best practices*, which, we may expect, will involve identifying specific exemplars of good arguments. But that in turn means that we must bring to bear some implicit or intuitive notion of what counts as a good argument, to that degree the empirical turn to context presupposes some degree of conceptual elaboration! Prior cognition (and theory) guide us, *faute de mieux*, in what we see and what we take into account, as Peirce (1878/1990) well knew. Thus it is not the case that *it all depends* on context and situation, for it somewhat depends on prior theorizing.

In the search for ballast, while acknowledging the need for a variety of cases drawn from different disciplines and settings, I would argue for a special place for philosophical arguments. Philosophy has had long experience with the practice of argumentation; and though its sins are many (i.e., its overcommitment to deductivist and essentialist views, its abstractness, its tendency to eschew detail and context), yet its virtues are many also, particularly if one looks at philosophical arguments through the lens of informal rather than formal logic. Look at Mill's argument for freedom of expression in *On Liberty*. You will find Mill engaged in anticipating and responding to objections, and it seems to me that worthwhile leads about the issue of dialectical adequacy can be found here[xix].

To conclude, I am grateful to Leff for this criticism and the problems it has brought to the fore.

### *C. Response to van Rees's objections*

I turn now to some of the challenges raised by van Rees in her wide-ranging review of my book. In this paper, I can only deal with her "reservations" about the dialectical tier and only with some of those. Van Rees also builds on Govier's regress criticism, as well as Leff's criticism of abstraction. She writes: "In a truly

pragmatic conception of dialectic, what the arguer needs are nothing more (but nothing less) than the actual or anticipated objections of the opponent that he tries to convince" (2001: 234). Precisely; those actual and anticipated objections form part of the content of the dialectical tier (the remainder being the response to them). What works very well for the setting of a critical discussion (what I call process-driven theories) is not so helpful when one is constructing an argument for what Govier calls "a Noninteractive audience" (1999:183-201). Such an audience poses its own special problems that cannot be solved by models, like pragma-dialectics, developed for two or more participants who are face-to-face with one another. Both Blair (1998) and Govier (1999) have argued, and I think effectively, that such a model cannot be transported to other settings. Govier says: "Dialogue is wonderful thing, and greatly to be recommended, but dialogue requires real as opposed to hypothetical interaction. I want to say, in the manner of Wittgenstein, 'picture held up captive.' When no one else is there, we are not interacting with another person" (198). In my terms, this means that the process-driven approach will not provide all the answers for an argument as product-driven approach. And vice-versa. Both types of theory are necessary, and their respective contributions have yet to be fully vetted.

Van Rees also takes me to task for not providing criteria for dialectical adequacy. "What," she asks, "are the criteria for dialectical adequacy?" (van Rees 2001: 233) I acknowledged that there were no such criteria in MR and indeed expressed some wonderment at how this could be so - 2000 years into the theory of argument. Here we have yet another striking indication of the gap between theory and practice.

Time for some ballast. Let us turn to Mill's *On Liberty*, Chapter II: "Of the Liberty of Thought and Discussion." Without attempting to recap his entire argument, Mill is here defending the view that the government should not impose any constraint on the expression of opinion. The argument has two branches and is, from my standpoint, dialectical all the way down. Branch One proceeds on the supposition that we can never be sure that the opinion we are endeavouring to suppress is false. His argument against this invokes the premise that all silencing of discussion is an assumption of infallibility. Having presented his defense of this claim (in what I could call the illative core of the argument), Mill now steps back in order to anticipate an objection (1859/1974: 19) "The objection likely to be made to this argument would probably take some such form as the following.



There is no greater assumption of infallibility in forbidding the propagation of error than in any other thing that is done by public authority on its own judgement and responsibility.” The objection here is an objection to one of the premises of Branch One[xx]. Mill develops this objection at length and having done that, makes his response: “I answer that it is assuming very much more.” He is not (obviously) responding to any particular person, it seems to me; rather he is responding to what he can imagine someone might put by way of a challenge. In thus anticipating and responding, Mill has gone some distance toward satisfying his dialectical responsibilities.

An important but hitherto unasked question is: Does Mill’s argument achieve dialectical adequacy? To get a handle on this, I suggest we ask: How might Mill have gone wrong here in this part of his argument? There are at least three ways that he might go wrong. He might have failed to give a faithful articulation of the objection; he may have overstated it or understated it. Or he might have not given a good response to it. There is a third way he might fail to achieve dialectical adequacy: he might have failed to deal with an objection that he should have dealt with.

In line with these conjectures, I now offer the following proposal regarding dialectical adequacy. The arguer achieves dialectical adequacy in her argument provided that:

a. the arguer deals fairly, *accurately* with each objection;

The typical complaint that points to a dialectical failure of this sort is: “You have misrepresented the position you are criticizing.” (straw person)

b. the arguer’s response to the objection is *adequate*;

The typical complaint that points to a failure of this sort is: “But you did not say how you would deal with the strongest objection; that objection still stands.”

c. the arguer deals with the *appropriate* objections.

The typical complaint that points to a dialectical failure of this sort is: “But you have not dealt with the most pressing (important/significant) objection.”

I propose then that the criteria for the dialectical tier are appropriateness, accuracy and adequacy. *Accuracy* here means that the arguer engages with the real position and not some distortion of it; i.e., the arguer must avoid the fallacy of straw person. It seems likely that *adequacy* can be handled by the criteria for the illative core; that is, the arguer’s response to the objection will be adequate just in case the argument given (if one is given) satisfies the criteria of relevance,

sufficiency and acceptability. But when it comes to the issue of which are the *appropriate* objections, it seems to me we are in uncharted territory. I think Govier is headed in the right direction in invoking *salience* (1999, 201) but that concept itself needs unpacking.

I have framed this new proposal (as I did its predecessor) in deontic language: “the arguer must deal with his or her *dialectical obligations or responsibilities*[**xxi**].” But to return to our theological analogy, all this talk of obligations sounds so very Calvinist (or Roman Catholic). Perhaps I need to adjust my theorizing to take advantage of New Age theologies which would urge us to think: “The cup is not half empty; it is half full.” Such a voice would say here: “What you call obligations can equally well be viewed as opportunities and challenges.” Viewed this way, the question changes: no longer is it a matter of which objections one must respond to but rather which challenges one choose to respond to, which objects capture one’s interest. Now the whole matter of *interest* and choice (van Rees, 2001, 232) emerges as central. Instead of thinking of the arguer as *obliged* to respond, it may be preferable to look at dialectical material as presenting a range of possible points for further development, understanding that which of these the arguer chooses will depend legitimately not only one’s obligations but also one’s interests.

Indeed, it seems evident to me that my respondents have to a non-negligible degree been led by their own interests. Thus Govier look at the proposal from the prospective of a logician; Leff looks at those aspects which would perhaps be of interest to a rhetorician; van Rees scrutinizes those aspects of my position which, as it were, leap out from the viewpoint of pragma-dialectics. And it seems both natural and inevitable that in responding to someone’s argument/position, we will be led by our own interests. If the critic/objector can legitimately use interest to structure his or her response, it seems that the same principle would apply to the arguer in deciding what objections to respond to[**xxii**].

In the final analysis, a doctrine of dialectical adequacy will require attention to both obligation and interest. But how to reconcile these competing tendencies, I do not know.

#### *4. The Implications of the Proposal*

At this point I can anticipate an objection in the form of a question: What difference does it make whether we build the dialectical tier into our conceptualization of argument? The one who asks probably has in mind William

James's statement which roughly paraphrased is this: "A difference which makes no difference is no difference."

Let me briefly indicate the differences my proposal makes in three areas: theory, practice, and pedagogy.

My proposal has few implications for *the practice* of argumentation than it does for the theory or for the pedagogy. The reason for this strange situation is that the dialectical tier has always been strongly represented in the practice of argumentation. The problem is that it has not been included in the theory; and because textbooks tend to follow theory (Massey, 1981)(**xxiii**), it has not been made much of an appearance in logic pedagogy[**xxiv**].

There is perhaps no better illustration of this than Solomon's 1989 *Introduction to Philosophy* text. When he is providing directions to the student about how to construct an argument, he makes a special point of telling them that they should anticipate objections. But later when he is giving the standard FDL story about what counts as a good argument, his theory makes no provision for how well the arguer does in this assigned task of anticipating objections.

So the implications for *pedagogy* are these: that when we give examples of argument to our students, we should present as examples arguments in which the arguer at least recognizes the dialectical situation, and we should be teaching them as well what they must do to carry this part off well. If this means that we retire or move to the background the infamous Socrates example, I, for one, would not object.

At the level of *theory* I have indicated numbers of tasks that remain to be accomplished. What is dialectical adequacy? What are the arguer's dialectical obligations (if any)? What is an objection, and how does it differ from other forms of dialectical material? What is required to deal with an objection properly? What other forms of dialectical material are there? How are the criteria for the dialectical tier to be developed? What is the role of best practices, and how shall we identify them? What is the role of interest in dialectical issues? How did logical theory manage to overlook the dialectical tier? What are the respective strengths and weaknesses of product driven vs product driven theories?

That this series of questions has emerged in this review may perhaps be taken as some indication of the fertility of the proposal.

## 5. Conclusion

The proposal regarding a dialectical tier comes out of the tradition of informal

logic and brings, I hope, something new and important to the table. Even if one does not accept the proposal yet the issue it raises, the questions that surround it may be enough to redeem it. For, as I said earlier, the proposal was not itself the end but rather a means of calling attention to overlooked issues and questions. I hope I may have succeeded in persuading that the proposal is not without merit. And if not, then possibly I have illustrated that the issues that it raises are very much worth continued attention. Perhaps, then, the proper theological destination for my proposal will turn out to be neither Heaven nor Hell, but rather Limbo, where according to Roman Catholic theology the as-yet unredeemed souls await their eternal destiny.

At this point in the service, one expects a blessing; but though I am literally in a position to do so, I shall not. I do however, wish to acknowledge the many blessings afforded me, like the opportunity to address this gathering this morning, which would not have been possible with the privilege of a long and fruitful association with my colleague, Tony Blair.

As we go forth this morning to begin three days of intense discussion about argumentation, we might well remember what Carnap said in *Empiricism, Semantics, and Ontology*:

Let us grant to those who work in any special field of investigation the freedom to use any form of expression which seems useful to them; the work in the field will sooner or later lead them to the elimination of those forms which have no useful function. Let us be cautious in making assertions and critical in examining them, but tolerant in permitting linguistic forms.

## NOTES

**[i]** I want to especially acknowledge the help I have received from WGRAIL – the Windsor Research Group on Argumentation and Informal Logic (Tony Blair, Bob Pinto, Hans V. Hansen and Kate Parr) for their comments and criticisms of various drafts. As well, I wish to acknowledge the comments and papers of the students of the Argumentation Seminar in Winter 2002 for their comments: Jan Sobocan, Roger Daniher and particularly the fine paper by Jay Latkoczky which helped to steer me back on the course I take here.

**[ii]** Wenzel, 1990. But see my caveats about this division in (2002).

**[iii]** Woods (2001) and others have reminded that the objection here is not to FDL but rather to various textbook authors' adaptations of that theory.

**[iv]** Some (Groarke (2000/2002), Hansen (private correspondence) will argue that FDL can, when taught properly, overcome this difficulty. We did not actively

pursue that possibility, however, choosing to follow a different path.

**[v]** A sketch of how the idea took shape would go as follows. In my paper for the First International Conference on Argumentation (1984), I put forth the idea that the arguer has an obligation “to address himself to opposing points of view and show why his is superior. To fail to do this is to fail to discharge a fundamental obligation of the arguer in the dialectical situation” (1996, 81). In our 1987 paper, Blair and I take the view that the arguer has “dialectical obligations” (1996, 100) which include meeting objections that one might anticipate from one’s audience. (The phrase “dialectical tier” does not appear in this paper.) This was in the context of our discussion of the sufficiency requirement for arguments. We then itemized the type of objections that might be raised. We claimed that an argument was incomplete if it did not meet its dialectical obligations, and we proposed that the concept of the community of model interlocutors could deal with the crucial questions. In “Informal Logic and Politics” (1992), I argued that in addition to the first tier, arguments needed to have a second tier, which I called the dialectical tier. There I also attempted to develop a set of criteria to appraise the dialectical tier, a set of criteria for dialectical adequacy. In 1994, I again discuss the idea of a dialectical tier but here it is defended by reference to a feature of the argumentative process which had not hitherto appeared - the requirement of manifest rationality. In “Arguments and Dialectical Obligations” (1996) presented to the Ontario Philosophical Society, I again presented the idea that arguer’s have dialectical obligations that must be discharged and examined four possible answers to the question. Similar ideas are to be found in Barth (1985, 1987) where she discusses the notion of a dialectical field, and Toulmin (1958) who introduced the notion of a rebuttal into his approach to understanding the structure of argument.

**[vi]** There are other important aspects such as the idea that arguments are characterized by the trait I call manifest rationality.

**[vii]** Others have made similar suggestions. See Goldman (1999, 139-44). How close we are, apart from terminological differences, is perhaps indicated in the following text: “In science, scholarship, law and other polemical realms, extended argumentative discourses are the norm. Scholars are expected to report existing findings and literature that form the basis of predictable objections. This should be done as part of one’s initial defense of one’s conclusion, not simply in subsequent responses to criticisms” (emphasis mine).

**[viii]** Even “ordinary” arguers understand the need to anticipate and deal with objections, alternative etc.

I could produce many examples drawn from debates about various social and political issues but here shall mention a column in my local paper: Gord Henderson, "Time to send a message," The Windsor Star, A3, May 11, 2002, in which he anticipates and responds to objections and criticisms of the position he develops.

**[ix]** Objections to the proposal seem to have taken one of three forms: the proposal is unworkable; the proposal is underdeveloped; or, the proposal is not logical in character but rhetorical.

**[x]** For example, one reads on page 172: "In my approach an argument without a dialectical tier is not an argument." But two pages earlier, one reads: "what my position comes down to is that the central case of argument is the entire structure consisting of the illative core and the dialectical tier. I propose that it will be understood as the paradigm case of argument" (170). I apologize for this confusion. Here I am making it clear that texts like that on page 170 are most reflective of my position. See my (2002) for a fuller accounting.

**[xi]** Even when thus limited, the proposal encounters a problem, as Hansen pointed out: Take just those cases where the dialectical tier is required, how is an infinite regress be avoided there? Blair has raised a different and equally destabilizing objection against the idea that the proposal can be regarded as referring to the paradigm case. For he has a counterexample. I shall not here attempt to deal with these objections.

**[xii]** This is what I called The Specification Problem (2000: 327-37).

**[xiii]** I attempted to answer this question in my paper for OSSA4: Johnson (2001).

**[xiv]** Govier raises this question (1999: 229-232).

**[xv]** Leff supposes that these are the reasons for my doubts about dialectic. He may be referring here to what I say on page 362. But there is more to the story, as has just been said. He says that for me "the argumentative task is incomplete until and unless the dialectical tier is engaged; that this obligation is not ethical or pragmatic or rhetorical but rather stems from the requirement of manifest rationality." This point is exceedingly important and I thank Michael for attending to it because it has not perhaps been appreciated. Leff thinks a stern requirement because the arguer must respond to objections even if the audience is unaware of [them] and or it raises doubts about the arguer's position; and even if the arguer believes the objection is misguided

**[xvi]** Or just as ;pragma-dialecticians seeks to develop rules for a critical discussion in advance of any particular discussion; or rhetoricians develop the

various rhetorical stages in advance of any particular speech; the various tropes used in all discourse.

**[xvii]** I attempted to deal with this in MR, 189-90.

**[xviii]** At least as interpreted by Bernstein (1971).

**[xix]** I know full well the problems attached to this suggestion in light of the sins of the philosophical past. Philosophers have, in particular, lusted after the certainty of deductive reasoning (Plato, Descartes); but there have been constant reminders by other philosophers (Aristotle, Wittgenstein, Wisdom) of the limits and problems with such views.

**[xx]** That is one type of objection: what others are there? If one reflects on this question and makes use of theory of argument, some typology will be forthcoming. (See also Govier, 1999, above.)

**[xxi]** My colleague, Bob Pinto, was the first to call my attention to this problem.

**[xxii]** This would seem to accord with what I called the principle of parity in MR (pp. 236-37).

**[xxiii]** Though (pace Massey, 1981) it can also work the other way.

**[xxiv]** The situation is slightly healthier if one looks at textbooks in other areas, such as the literature on debate. But even here one finds the influences of FDL; i.e., in talk of refutations.

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