

Scottish Argumentation Day

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Post-event report

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1 Objectives

Scotland has one of the greatest concentrations of argumentation researchers anywhere in the world, and exploiting that position is of significant benefit to the individual groups. Thus the primary objective of the Scottish Argumentation Day (SAD) was to bring together researchers to provide them with an opportunity to present their work in an informal setting, before having the opportunity to discuss potential routes for inter-institution collaboration.

Additionally, SAD also had the aim of allowing interested parties from other research areas to gain an insight into Argumentation research.

2 Participants

The event attracted 20 participants. A geographical breakdown is provided in Table 1, with the number from Scotland being further broken down by institution.

In addition, a live video stream of the presentations was viewed by a further participant from Edinburgh.

Location	Number of Attendees
Scotland	16
Aberdeen	7
Dundee	7
Edinburgh	2
France	2
Poland	2

Table 1: Geographic breakdown of attendees

3 Outcomes

An hour-long session of the event was dedicated to identifying how and where potential funding could be secured for future collaborative research projects. In this session, it was identified that a common theme in the research of those present was a move towards linguistic models of argument and dialogue. It was

agreed that this research could benefit greatly from collaboration with Linguistics research groups, such as the one already at Aberdeen. Follow-up discussion via email will aim to lay the groundwork to forge such connections.

The presentation sessions exposed synergy in the research being carried out at the different institutions. Both Aberdeen (Caminada, Oren, Wyner) and Dundee (Snaith) are using abstract and structured argumentation frameworks; our guest speakers from Institut de Recherche en Informatique de Toulouse (IRIT), France (Javier, St Dizier), are researching automatic argument extraction that employs work from Dundee (Budzynska and Reed).

However, the presentations also demonstrated a significant breadth to the research, with it ranging from connections between argumentation and description logic (Cerutti, Aberdeen) to attempts to engage older adults with broadcast debates (Medellin, Dundee).

Furthermore, the day helped emphasise the strength of argumentation research being carried out in Scotland. This has prompted an exploration of potential funding sources to exploit this strength.

Specific outcomes from SAD include:

- a series of meetings between Dundee and IRIT
- a draft paper
- SICSA Temporary Theme application from Dundee and Aberdeen
- nucleus of a proposal, co-ordinated by Wyner (Aberdeen)

Finally, an attendee from IRIT (Javier) has been formally offered a PhD position at Dundee.