Bita Heshmati

PhD Candidate
University of Groningen, The Netherlands
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Education

University of Groningen   **Groningen, the Netherlands**

PhD Candidate, Arts and Humanities, Philosophy   December 2021 – December 2025

Supervisors: Dr. Jan Albert van Laar, Dr. Lotte van Poppel,

Promoter: Prof. dr. Kees de Glopper

> **Project description** – My PhD project centers on the development of a comprehensive theory of argumentation that incorporates visual elements. The primary aim of this theory is to aid in the identification, reconstruction, and assessment of visual arguments, particularly those found in online contexts. I will address questions surrounding the identification of (non)argumentative uses of visual elements, the techniques for logically reconstructing them, and the process of evaluating them using the norms of logic and argumentation theory.

University of Groningen   **Groningen, the Netherlands**

Research Master, Philosophy (*cum laude*)   September 2019 – August 2021

Supervisors: Dr. Jan Albert van Laar, Dr. Petar Bodlović

> **Master thesis** – My thesis focuses on appeal to pity (*argumentum ad misericordiam*) in visual argumentation. I compare visual and verbal examples of appeal to pity by logically reconstructing and evaluating them using critical questions and pragma-dialectical rules for critical discussion.

My thesis, in part, shows that visual and verbal arguments can be analyzed through similar logical concepts and tools by adding specifications that help analyze visual elements.

Simon Fraser University   **Vancouver, Canada**

Bachelor of Arts, Philosophy and Economics   January 2012 – September 2017

Employment

University of Groningen   **Groningen, the Netherlands**

Teaching assistant (unremunerated)   September 2023 – December 2023

BA course: Reasoning and Arguing

University of Groningen   **Groningen, the Netherlands**

Teaching assistant   February 2020– March 2020

 Practical on Academic Writing (for BA course: Philosophy of Cognitive Science)

University of Groningen   **Groningen, the Netherlands**

Teaching assistant   September 2020 – December 2020

BA course: Reasoning and Arguing

Publications

Heshmati, B. 2023. Developing Requirements for Reconstructing Visual Arguments Using Meta-visual Disputes. Proceedings of *the European Conference on Argumentation (ECA)*, forthcoming.

Heshmati, B., Modrzejewska, E. 2023. Meta-visual Disputes about the Polish-Belarusian Migration Crisis: The Viewer's Perspective in Online Tweets. *(Journal of Argumentation in Context. In press)*

Presentations

Heshmati, B. (2023, July). "Identifying the Argumentative Roles of Visual Features: Propositionality and Intention". Paper presented at the 13th International Society for the Study of Argumentation (ISSA), Leiden, the Netherlands.

Heshmati, B. (2023, April). "A Meta-visual Analysis of Pictures in Discussions about the Polish Migration Crisis". Paper presented at the Multimodal Argumentation Workshop, Salzburg, Austria.

Heshmati, B. (2022, September). "Developing Criteria for Reconstructing Visual Arguments Using Meta-visual Disputes". Paper presented at 4th European Conference for Argumentation (ECA), Rome, Italy.

Training

Lorentz Workshop   **Leiden, the Netherlands**
"Big Data for Small Data in (Qualitative) Argumentation Analysis."   June, 2023

Actions APPLY Training School   **Larnaca, Cyprus**
"Argument Mining and Argumentation-based Explainable AI"   February, 2023

Actions APPLY Training School   **Cagliari, Italy**
"Argumentation and Pragmatics"   September, 2022

Actions APPLY Training School   **Örebro, Sweden**
 "Multimodal Rhetoric and Argumentation in Public Policy Communication"   April, 202

Actions APPLY Training School   **Copenhagen, Denmark**

"Deliberation, Dissent, and Norms of Argumentative Engagement"   October, 2021

Academic Service

University of Groningen   **Groningen, the Netherlands**

Chair of PCCP (departmental meetings in theoretical philosophy)   January 2022– January 2023

Languages

Farsi, English, Dutch (elementary)