This book is the edition of the Proceedings of the International Colloquium "Rhetoric and Argumentation in the Beginning of the XXIst Century" which was held at the Faculty of Letters of the University of Coimbra, in October 2-4, 2008, and was organized by Henrique Jales Ribeiro, Joaquim Neves Vicente and Rui Alexandre Grácio. The main purpose of the Colloquium was to commemorate the publication in 1958 of the books *La nouvelle rhétorique: Traité de l'argumentation*, and *The Uses of Argument*, by respectively, C. Perelman/L. Olbrechts-Tyteca, and S. Toulmin. But another important goal was to take stock of the state of rhetoric and argumentation theory at the beginning of a new century. It was a unique event, without parallel in Portugal and worldwide considering its theme and its aims, which gathered some of the World's most renowned rhetoric and argumentation theorists: Alan Gross, Douglas Walton, Erik Krabbe, Frans V. Eemeren, F. Snoeck Henkemans, Guy Haarscher, John Anthony Blair, Marianne Doury, Oswald Ducrot, Ruth Amossy.

The book includes a variety of very important contributions to rhetoric and argumentation theory, ranging from those that naturally fall within the subject matter, to the areas of philosophy, linguistics, communication theory, education theory and law theory. The "art", as it was called in the Medieval curricula, is no longer a discipline amongst others and has became, according to the view of some specialists and largely owing to Perelman and Toulmin influences, a "new paradigm" of rationality for our age, which auspiciously encompasses all fields of knowledge and culture.

The book is divided into five parts: I- Historical and philosophical studies on the influences of Perelman and Toulmin; II- Studies in argumentation theory; III- Linguistic approaches to argumentation theory; IV- Rhetoric and communication theory / education theory approaches to argumentation; and V- Law theory approaches to argumentation.

**EDITED BY**

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The editor is Associate Professor at the Faculty of Letters of the University of Coimbra (Portugal), where, presently, he teaches Logic, Argumentation Theories, and a post graduate seminary on the Logic of the Sciences. After his PhD in philosophy, he has been the teacher of the chair on argumentation since its creation in Coimbra - and for the first time in Portugal - from the beginning of the nineties. A large part of his academic activity has been devoted to give seminars, lectures and Free Courses on argumentation and its theoretical problems. He is the coordinator of the Research Group "Teaching Logic and Argumentation" of the Research Unity "Language, Interpretation and Philosophy", which is member of the (Portuguese) Foundation for Science and Technology. His main research field has been logic and the history of analytical philosophy in the twentieth century. He was the organizer, in Portugal, of the "1st National Meeting for Analytical Philosophy" [English translation of the Portuguese title], and the editor of its respective Proceedings (Coimbra: Faculdade de Letras, 2003). Besides the authorship of tens of papers published by Portuguese and international philosophy reviews, he has published two books: "Toward an Understanding of the History of Analytical Philosophy" [English Translation of the Portuguese title] (Coimbra: MinervaCoimbra, 2001), and "Bertrand Russell and the History of Analytical Philosophy" [English Translation of the Portuguese title] (Coimbra: Pé de Página, 2007). He his a founder of the Portuguese Society for Analytical Philosophy, and member of various international societies, such as the British Society for the History of Philosophy, and the International Society for the Study of Argumentation.