

# Preface

“Why don’t you write a book?” So asked my friend and colleague Tony Blair, as we chatted one morning at an academic conference.

The thought percolated in my mind for some months. It occurred to me that there might be some interest in a collection of some of my papers on reasoning and argument published over the last 37 years. I could take the opportunity of assembling them to update my thinking on the issues they addressed, with reference to more recent scholarship.

When I broached this idea to Tony, he gave it his immediate and enthusiastic support. I thank him for planting the initial idea, for his advice on the prospectus, for his support for my proposal to the publisher, and for writing the foreword.

For the collection, I selected the most substantial single-authored papers on reasoning and argument that I have published to date, assigned them to parts by topic, and ordered the papers in each part chronologically. I have ordered the parts chronologically, according to the date of initial publication of the first chapter of each part. At the end of each part, I have written a chapter entitled “Postscript” in which I bring up to date my thinking on the issues addressed in that part. The most substantial new work in those postscripts is my revised account of the concept of argument in the second section of Chap. 32. However, all seven postscripts have new things to say. In particular, I have articulated comprehensive positions on topics about which I have previously written little, such as fallacies and argumentation schemes.

I have edited the previously published articles very lightly, correcting typographical errors, making spelling more uniform, updating references and putting them into the publisher’s style, calling each article a chapter, incorporating acknowledgements in an opening bibliographical footnote in each chapter, inserting abstracts and subheadings where there were none, and updating links to resources on the Web where possible. Where I have made a substantive change in the text, I have described it in a footnote introduced by the italicized phrase “*Correction in the present republication*” or “*Change in the present republication*”. Also, in response to reviewers’ suggestions, I have added footnotes introduced by the

italicized phrase “*Added in the present republication*”. Otherwise, the previously published articles are unchanged.

Inevitably, there is some repetition from one chapter to another, since the reprinted chapters were originally written as separate articles, not as components of a single book. The repetition will be especially obvious in the series of papers collected in Part II, in which I develop a conception of material consequence. I ask the reader’s indulgence for this repetition, which is never word for word and for which the reader can compensate by skimming over paragraphs and sections that repeat previously read content. It would have been a massive and probably counterproductive task to have condensed, collapsed, and rewritten the chapters in such a way as to avoid repetition. Further, some “repetitions” have changes of detail that reflect a change in thinking.

Since the sequence of chapters is not chronological, but chronological within thematically grouped parts, I list the chapters here in chronological order of the year in which I did the major work of writing them, as a way of making it easier to trace my intellectual journey:

- 1980: Chap. 1 (Deduction, Induction, and Conduction)
- 1986: Chap. 4 (Enthymematic Arguments)
- 1989: Chap. 11 (Validity in Conductive Arguments)
- 1989: Chap. 12 (Reasoning by Analogy: A General Theory)
- 1990: Chap. 19 (Some Principles of Rational Mutual Inquiry)
- 1991: Chap. 22 (Relevance)
- 1993: Chap. 25 (Do the Fallacies have a Place in the Teaching of Reasoning Skills or Critical Thinking?)
- 1994: Chap. 5 (Does the Traditional Treatment of Enthymemes Rest on a Mistake?)
- 1998: Chap. 28 (The Significance of Informal Logic for Philosophy)
- 2001: Chap. 13 (Pollock on Practical Reasoning)
- 2001: Chap. 20 (The Practice of Argumentative Discussion)
- 2002: Chap. 6 (Toulmin’s Warrants)
- 2003: Chap. 31 (The Effectiveness of Instruction in Critical Thinking, Parts 1 and 2)
- 2003: Chap. 30 (Critical Thinking as an Educational Ideal, Parts 1 and 2)
- 2005: Chap. 23 (Good Reasoning on the Toulmin Model)
- 2005: Chap. 29 (Informal Logic and the Concept of Argument)
- 2006: Chap. 26 (Is there an *Argumentum Ad Hominem* Fallacy?)
- 2008: Chap. 7 (Non-logical Consequence)
- 2010: Chap. 14 (The Generation of Argumentation Schemes)
- 2010: Chap. 15 (Instrumental Rationality)
- 2011: Chap. 30 (Critical Thinking as an Educational Ideal, Parts 3 and 4)
- 2011: Chap. 8 (Inference Claims)
- 2013: Chap. 16 (Appeals to Considerations)
- 2013: Chap. 9 (Material Consequence and Counterfactuals)
- 2014: Chap. 2 (The Linked-Convergent Distinction)

- 2014: Chap. 31 (The Effectiveness of Instruction in Critical Thinking, Parts 3 and 4)
- 2015: Chap. 17 (“All Things Considered”)

A bibliographical footnote at the beginning of each republished chapter provides the data on its earlier publication and, where required, acknowledges permission by the copyright holder to republish the chapter.

It remains to thank colleagues whose criticism has saved me from error and helped me to sharpen my ideas. They are too many to name here; I acknowledge many of them in individual chapters, and their influence is obvious from the frequency with which I cite their work. But, in addition to Tony Blair, already acknowledged, one of them deserves explicit mention: Frans van Eemeren, who with his late colleague Rob Grootendorst first brought researchers investigating argumentation together as a global community. Frans, we are all in your debt. I am honoured by your decision as editor of Springer’s Argumentation Library series to approve the present work for publication. Finally, I would like to thank the publisher’s two reviewers, Derek Allen and James Freeman, for their careful scrutiny of the manuscript and many useful suggestions for its improvement.

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David Hitchcock

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Hitchcock, D.

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