

Wednesday 20th January, 2016

Summary: CICASP Seminar 18

**“Thou shalt not commit logical fallacies”:
illogical arguments in debates and how to spot them**

In this session, Andrew introduced the concept of illogical arguments; arguments that may seem sound, rational and convincing, but that are flawed logically. Illogical arguments can be made deliberately, for example by politicians trying to persuade the listener. They can also be made accidentally, leaving your argument open to attack. We played a matching game. Each participant was given two incorrectly paired names and definitions of a type of logical fallacy. The task was to find the correct match by asking other students. We then discussed each type of illogical argument, using examples; see the poster attached to the email.

Assignment for next week:

Find a news story and find some logical fallacies **in the story** (if any) & **in the attached public commentaries** (*in the debate*).

- Hot, debatable topics with long lists of comments work best.

Email us with any questions about the assignment.

Wednesday 27th January, 2016

Outline: CICASP Seminar 19

Where’s the Logic? Illogical arguments in debates and how to spot them

This seminar will be an interactive workshop. You will first summarise the main news story, during the workshop. Then you will describe any logical fallacies found within the text of the story itself. Next, you, as the presenter, will read selected commentaries (comments following the main article) to the group. The group, as your audience, will then have a few minutes to “spot the logical fallacies”, in game show format. The presenter can then agree or disagree with the audience's interpretations and provide their own thoughts. In this way, you will practise your ability to spot illogical arguments.