

Minutes of the working group "Dynamic and Dialogical Approaches to Historical Logic" (DDAHL)

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Location: Institute for Logic, Language and Computation (ILLC), Amsterdam

Participants:

Nicolas Clerbout
Marie-Helene Gorisse
Laurent Keiff
Benedikt Loewe
Thomas Piecha
Shaheed Rahman
Luca Tranchini
Sara Uckelman
Peter van Ormondt

To get a clear picture, it was first discussed where the initial idea of looking to Indian texts with (modern) logic techniques came from. The idea came about, partly at least, by two papers by Jonardon. (Ganeri, Jonardon. 'Towards a formal regimentation of the Navya-Nyaya technical language I + II' In Mihir Chakraborty, Benedikt Loewe, Madhabendra Nath Mitra, Sundar Sarukkai, eds. Logic, Navya-Nyaya and Applications, College Publications, London, 2008)

The project Jonardon set out in these papers might actually be carried out using more modern techniques. Techniques developed and used frequently at the ILLC (e.g. one can think of dynamic logic).

Something which has been done successfully at the ILLC in the field of medieval logic. Note that western medieval logic shares a feature with Indian logic: the fact that it takes the discursive character of logic and the role of various agents in communication more seriously than traditional (early 20th century) western logic.

This is how, in the beginning, the two expertises were related and which was discussed in Chennai, India during the conference there (ICLA09) with Benedikt, Jonardon, Marie-Helene and Peter.

After this was established a tentative formulation was made of what it is we would be doing. Namely:

- (a) Using new techniques in logic to understand old traditions
- (b) By studying historical texts one might be able to discover phenomena with a logic that is of interest.

And what a division of labour would look like:

Marie-Helene & Jonardon: translation and background knowledge Indian texts

Peter: application of logic techniques

Sara: methodology

Shaheed & Benedikt supervising the work at the respective sides.

Afterwards a lot of time was spent on discussing grant opportunities. Without describing this discussion, here are two candidates that came up (actually recent email discussion suggested a 3rd candidate:

http://www.frnl.org/fr/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=109&Itemid=174.

More on this below).

Leverhulme Trust (http://www.leverhulme.ac.uk/grants_awards/)
ANR (<http://www.agence-nationale-recherche.fr/Intl>)

It was put forward that ANR has a couple of pre-projects. Grants which can be for travel in order to work on the proposal of an actual, main project.

This led to the idea of a workshop. The workshop was named

'Dynamic and Dialogical Approaches to Historical Logic (DDAHL)'

Sara has created a page for this workshop to be found here:

<http://www.illc.uva.nl/medlogic/DDAHL/>

This web page will be the repository for resources for the group, i.e., papers and background info on Indian and medieval logic, and that people should send Sara papers/links. If anyone wants their papers to be password-protected so that only members of the group can access them, they should let Sara know, as she can set that up as well. But the default will be that they'll be publically available.