

## Editorial: Carlos Alchourrón Special Issue

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We would like to begin this editorial introduction with our congratulations for the initiative of creating the *South American Journal of Logic*. It will provide a channel of communication among those working in logic in the continent and the wider international community.

This second issue of the SAJL is dedicated to the memory of Carlos Alchourrón. Carlos was one of the most important South American philosophers of the last century, an outstanding figure at the intersection of philosophy, logic and law.

Roughly speaking, one can see three main phases in his intellectual history. The first saw him working in deontic logic and more generally the logic of norms, and culminated in the landmark book *Normative Systems*, co-authored with Eugenio Bulygin. In the 1970s a second phase became visible as he began collaborating with David Makinson and Peter Gärdenfors on formal problems of the dynamics of legal codes, centring on the problem of how rationally to derogate a law from a code. The concepts that the trio developed were extended to apply to arbitrary formal theories and culminated in their seminal paper “On the logic of theory change: partial meet contraction and revision functions”. That paper became a foundation stone for a new area of investigation, initially called the logic of theory change, later of belief change, and the model developed by Alchourrón and his collaborators is called the AGM paradigm. In the last years of his life, a third phase emerged. He began constructing a formal system to capture the logical behaviour of defeasible conditionals. The approach differs from those proposed by philosophers as much as it does from those articulated by computer scientists under the name of non-monotonic inference. At the time of Carlos’ death the project was not yet complete, and continues to be studied by the community.

For a more detailed picture of Alchourrón’s intellectual history, the reader is invited to turn to the first article in this issue, by Gladys Palau. The following article, by Eugenio Bulygin, focuses on Carlos’ contributions, often written jointly with Eugenio, to the philosophy of law. Antonio Martino recalls the genesis of a little-known joint paper with Carlos that emerged from their endeavour to build a system of automated deontic deduction that could resolve real-life legal cases. Called “Logic without Truth”, the paper in effect proclaimed the independence of the discipline of logic from the concepts of truth and falsehood.

Further contributions in this issue discuss other aspects of Carlos' legacy. In his text "Choice and Change in an Epistemic Context", Sven Ove Hansson examines the notion of doxastic voluntarism in the light of the AGM model of belief change. Andrew Jones proposes a formal characterization of a certain kind of self-deception. Clayton Peterson's contribution brings string diagrams to bear in articulating a deductive system for conditional normative reasoning. Réka Markovich discusses the standard distinction between first-order legal norms, for example those forbidding murder, and second-order ones such as rules instructing the judge on what legal actions should or may be taken in a case of murder. While the separation is clear in theory, in legal practice second-order norms can also be doing first-order work, and the article discusses how this situation may be conceptualized. Renata Wassermann and Márcio M. Ribeiro's contribution discusses the interplay between the AGM paradigm and Computer Science, and how can both gain from mutual exchange. Finally, in "The *Cost of Consistency*: information economy in Paraconsistent Belief Revision", Rafael R. Testa argues for an opposition between the principles of *Information Economy* and *Consistency* within the AGM paradigm. Based on this, he defends the position that a Paraconsistent Belief Revision system could minimise this friction in the best possible way.

We would like to express our gratitude to the authors who contributed to this special issue, thanking them for their forbearance despite the delays in bringing the issue to fruition. Thanks also to the anonymous reviewers, whose commentaries on drafts have contributed greatly to the quality of the final products.

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