Commentary on Andrzej Kisielewicz’s
A new approach to argumentation and reasoning
based on mathematical practice

Andrew Aberdein

School of Arts and Communication,
Florida Institute of Technology

1st European Conference on Argumentation (ECA 2015),
Universidade Nova de Lisboa, 10 June 2015
Where We (Dis)agree

Where we agree

Conventional Wisdom:

1. Mathematical reasoning $\not\approx$ everyday reasoning
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2. Formal logic adequately models mathematical reasoning
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Aberdein Since mathematical reasoning \( \approx \) everyday reasoning, techniques that work for everyday reasoning should work for mathematical reasoning.
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Kisielewicz Since mathematical reasoning $\approx$ everyday reasoning, techniques that work for mathematical reasoning should work for everyday reasoning.
A Fundamental Educational Mistake

‘treating formal rules of inference as a base for real life reasoning is a great scientific misconception . . . We face a kind of an epistemic failure. Teaching logic in a way it is done now is a fundamental educational mistake.’
Logic is Considering Possibilities

‘The main general thesis of this article is that the essence of logical reasoning lies in the analysis of possibilities. Logic is considering possibilities. We accept a conclusion as logical if we are convinced that there is no other (reasonable) possibility.’
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‘It is the ability to differentiate between reasonable, meaningful options and unworthy ones that is the key to our reasoning’s effectiveness.’
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