Description of the talk: Democratic cultures aim to give people equal input to public processes including the public exchange of reasons that we call argument. However, arguers operate with all the normal prejudices and engage each other in the context of relationships that colour their interactions and involve dependencies and vulnerabilities. Pretending we operate as equals when all sorts of social roles and prejudices guide our interactions actually risks entrenching social disadvantages and making things less equal. A veneer of equality belies the reality of power differences, including gendered, racialized, and other axes of oppression and that makes argumentative injustice appear just, which can entrench these forms of oppression. There is much work to be done by argument theorists in addressing and correcting false assumptions that arguers operate as equals and in developing theories of argument that will actually serve everyone equally well. I will provide an overview of some of the feminist work directed toward more socially just approaches to argument.

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