Contents

Acknowledgements Abbreviations of Sources Introduction		viii ix
		1
1	Rationalism Turns to Dialogue	5
•	Reason and Modern Society	5
	Dialogic Rationalism	7
	Humanising Rationalism	7
	Habermas and Dialogic Rationalism	8
	Putnam and Dialogic Rationalism	9
	Extending the Conversation among	
	Contemporary Theorists	12
	Thinking Dialogically and Rhetorically	15
	Dialogic Relativism	17
	A Guide to the Book	18
2	Resituating Reason	20
	Stories of Reason	20
	Habermas's Tale of Two Reasons	20
	Enlightenment	20
	Communication	22
	Communicative Evolution	23
	The Communicative Self	25
	Putnam's Story of Reason and Science	28
	The Spell of Science	28
	Argumentative Reasoning	30
	Habermas and Putnam	31
	Giddens on the Experience of Modern Reason	32
	Lloyd and the Image of Reason	33
	Elster and Rationality as Success	35
	Bookchin, Reason and Ecology	37
	Questions	38
3	Argument in Theory	40
	The Concept of Argument	40
	Habermas and the Dialogic Theory of Argument	40
	Argumentative Speech	40
	Irrationality	42

vi Contents

	The Unified Diversity of Argument	43
	Dialogics of Theory	45
	Defending Argumentative Consensus	49
	Putnam and the Dialogic Theory of Argument	50
	The Argumentative Quest	50
	Ambivalence and Intellectual Virtues	55
	Dialogue and Truth	57
	Conversations about Argument and Dialogue	59
	The Conversation between Habermas and Putnam	59
	Billig's Rhetorical Psychology of Arguing	61
	Rawls and Disagreements	63
	Giddens on Argument and Dialogue	- -
	Tannen's Linguistic Theory	65
	Sheldon, Goodwin and Gender Differences in Argument	69
	Rhetorical Perspective: Towards 'Double Arguability'	70
		70
4	Arguing 'the Good Life'	72
	Reason and 'the Good Life'	72
	Habermas and Argumentative Hope	74
	Societies	74
	Mythic Worldviews	75
	Modern Worldviews	78
	Risk and the Lifeworld	80
	Arguable Worlds	82
	Yes and No	85
	Putnam, Reason and Human Flourishing	90
	Conflicting Realities	90
	Different Values, Different Facts	93
	Rational Ends	94
	The Conversation about the Rational 'Good Life'	98
	The Conversation between Habermas and Putnam	98
	Rawls and Liberal Society	99
	The Cultural Politics of Argument: Nancy Fraser and	,,
	'Struggle over Needs'	100
	Giddens and the Hope of Transformation	103
	Unbounded Dialogue	106
5	Landscapes of Rationalism and Postmodernism	100
_	Rationalisms and Postmodernisms	108
	Non-Dialogic Reason	108
	Habermas on Strategic Action	108
	Elster, Sen and New Instrumentalism	108
	Nussbaum and Ethical Deliberation	111
	Bookchin's Scientific Hope	116
	Haraway and Cyborg Society	118
	Postmodernity and Postmodernism	119
	The Postmodern Climate	120
	The Fostinoutin Chinate	120

Contents	vii
Feyerabend's Epistemological Relativism	120
Lyotard's Heterogeneous Universes	121
Lyotard in the Perspective of Putnam and Habermas	121
Rorty: A Postmodern Accommodation?	127
6 Dialogic Rationalism and Dialogic Relativism	131
A Case for Interpretation: Galileo the Rational Hero	131
Galileo's Dialogue in Rationalist and Relativist Perspective	133
Saying 'No' to Science	133
Reasonable Limits	134
Unacceptable Responses, Unacceptable Requirements?	136
Double Arguability	139
Interpreting Argument	139
Rationalism, Relativism and the Ambiguities of Contradiction	140
Applications	143
Re-imagining Reason	146
Conclusion: A Culture of Intellectual Encouragement	149
Index	153