Fallacies as Distributed “Military” Intelligence. The Manifest Cognitive Value of Fallacies

Lorenzo Magnani
University of Pavia, Italy

Abstract: The aim of this paper is to briefly illustrate how the theoretical framework of coalition enforcement can prove useful to frame not only the moral cognitive role of fallacies, but the naturalization of morality as well, also taking advantage of Thom’s theory of catastrophes. A basic aspect of the human fallacious use of language, as far as its military effects are concerned, is the softness and gentleness granted by the constitutive capacity of fallacies to conceal errors – especially when they involve abductive hypothesis guessing. Being constitutively and easily unaware of our errors is very often intertwined with the self-conviction that we are not at all violent and aggressive in the argumentation we perform (and in our eventual related actions): I will introduce the concept of moral bubble to address various cognitive effects, which are often disregarded in the current literature.