

The Latin phrase *argumentum a fortiori* denotes an "argument 'from [the] stronger [reason]'." For example, if it has been established that a person is deceased, then one can, with equal or greater certainty, argue that the person is not breathing.

A *straw man or straw person*, also known in the UK as an Aunt Sally, is a type of argument and is an informal fallacy based on misrepresentation of an opponent's position. To "attack a straw man" is to create the illusion of having refuted a proposition by replacing it with a superficially similar yet unequivalent proposition (the "straw man"), and to refute it, without ever having actually refuted the original position. This technique has been used throughout history in polemical debate, particularly in arguments about highly charged, emotional issues.

*Sui generis* is an adjective borrowed from Latin, meaning "of its own kind/genus" or "unique in its characteristics;" e.g., an entire society has *its own* essence *per se*, before any individual currently living in it is born, and is thus it is "independent of any individual". For Durkheim then, a society is *sui generis*, and will continue its *own independent existence* after specific individuals cease to be present and interact with it, so the appearance of individual indispensability is completely deceptive.