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Argument deletion, thematic roles, and Leibniz's logicogrammatical analysis of relations. (English. English summary)

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In this paper a formal framework historically faithful to Leibniz's analysis of relational sentences is presented. The author provides a reconstruction of Leibniz's ideas on relations up to date in terms of logical standards, and pays attention in particular to the connective 'insofar as' ('quatenus'). This framework provides a logically viable, and philosophically interesting, alternative to other formal approaches that have been recently proposed: "To look at Leibniz's account of relational sentences, from the perspective of the current debate on argument deletion and thematic roles, has provided a new key for the interpretation of Leibniz's 'quatenus', which I hope has vindicated Leibniz from the pessimistic evaluations of influential Leibnizian scholars who have commented on it."

The paper has the following thirteen sections: (1) Introduction; (2) Argument deletion and thematic roles; (3) The agent/patient distinction; (4) Comparisons; (5) The part/whole relation; (6) Distance; (7) Inversion, transposition and omission; (8) Homogeneity; (9) Obligatory roles and argument addition; (10) A model-theoretic interpretation of 'quatenus'; (11) The adequacy of the Leibnizian system S(LL); (12) Conclusion; Appendix I: Proof theory.

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