



PhilInBioMed

THE MAGAZINE

– December 2018 –

Greetings

Dear PhilInBioMed
Members,

We are proud to present the first edition of the PhilInBioMed Magazine. Here you can find the latest news about recent conferences, publications and upcoming events.

We are hoping that this newsletter will help to make the PhilInBioMed network more interactive by providing a forum for discussions and a place to learn about the latest developments in the network.

How pertinent the information provided by the PhilInBioMed Magazine is, depends also on you. Whenever you publish an article, post a job opening or you have other news do not hesitate to contact us at (contact@phillinbiomed.org) to get the word out – either in the Magazine or on the PhilInBioMed website.

The PhilInBioMed
Magazine Team



First International PhilInBioMed Conference

On November 22nd began the first meeting of the PhilInBioMed International Network. About 50 philosophers and scientists from all over Europe and the United States had gathered for the occasion. Plenary speaker Jane Maienschein from the Arizona State University got the conference going with a talk combining history, philosophy and ecology to explore questions on regeneration. In the following talk Thomas Pradeu and Maël Lemoine outlined the differences between Philosophy of Science and Philosophy *in* Science (PinS) and how they wish to further PinS with PhilInBioMed. Other topics of the day ranged from new approaches to scientific investigation to the debatable merits of early diagnosis in a variety of diseases.

The second day of the meeting Cambridge professor Hasok Chang provocatively stated “*Science needs philosophy – but does it need philosophers ?*” and his talk was followed by a lively discussion. Another presentation that received much attention was Lucie Laplane’s report of how a lab internship changed her approach to philosophy. On both days of the conference a number of round table talks gave room for dialog on topics such as: *What’s the use of philosophers in research ?*, *Publishing with a philosopher in science journals*, *Building interdisciplinary curricula* and *Obstacles to more philosophy in science*.

The day ended with a brain storming session for the next meeting of the PhilInBioMed Network (October 14th-15th 2019). For more information on the First Meeting:

<https://www.phillinbiomed.org/event/first-international-meeting/>

Save the date

The **2nd Meeting of the of the PhilInBioMed Network** will take place on **October 14th-15th 2019** in Bordeaux. Plenary speakers are Elliott Sober and Eugene Koonin.

Summer School

From **July 1st-5th 2019** the [ERC IDEM](#) team is organizing a summer school exploring conceptual issues related to **Microbiota, Symbiosis and Individuality**. 20 young philosophers and biologist will meet to learn, discuss and develop new interdisciplinary approaches. Application deadline is the 24th of February 2019.

For more information: www.immuconcept.org/erc-idem-summer-school

Call for discussion

The notion of **Homeostasis** is central to biology, but still vague in many aspects. [Bertrand Daignan-Fornier](#), Research Director at CNRS and head of the Genetics of Metabolic Pathways team, would like to develop an interdisciplinary approach to address questions such as:

- Self-regulation as a prerequisite to life?
- What are the consequences of homeostasis on the genotype/phenotype relationship? On evolution? Plasticity vs robustness?
- How clear are the limits and variations in "normal" vs "pathological" situations? Exit homeostasis?
- Misuse and fallacious utilization of the term homeostasis by biologists (and others)? Should we enrich our vocabulary (allostasis, rheostasis)?
- Homeostasis in other fields than biology (for example, are mechanisms leading to "stress"-reduction/control analogous to homeostasis? does social homeostasis exist? Are there homeostasis-like mechanisms operating in the reflection process?)

Interested philosophers or scientist can contact Bertrand Daignan-Fornier under B.Daignan-Fornier@ibgc.cnrs.fr. He would be happy to set up an event centered around homeostasis, if enough people express an interest in the topic.

Upcoming

January 2019

22nd Gerd Müller:
"[Do we need an extended evolutionary synthesis?](#)",
Bordeaux, France

February 2019

15th Lucie Laplane, [What is stemnes and how does that matter?](#), Bordeaux, France

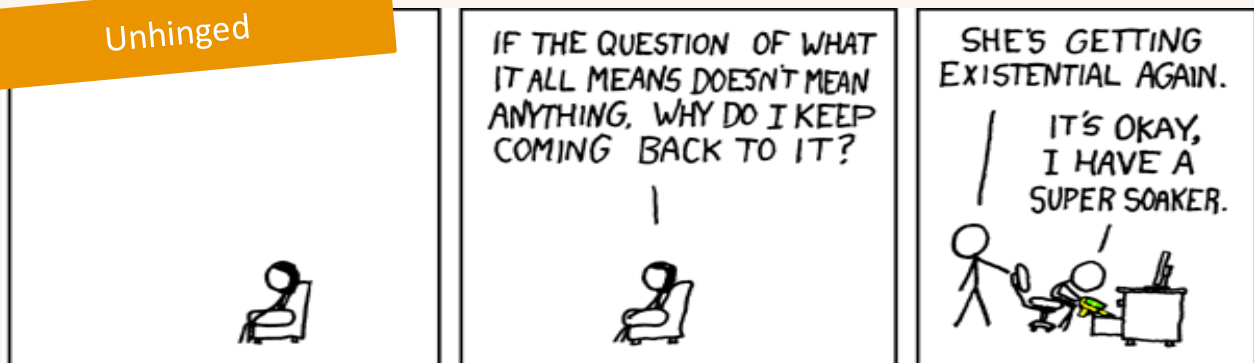
June 2019

2nd – July 15th Summer school:
[Embryology: Concepts & Techniques in Modern Developmental Biology](#), MBL,
Woods Hole, USA

July 2019

1th-5th Summer school:
[Microbiota, Symbiosis and Individuality: Conceptual and Philosophical Issues](#), Biarritz,
France

Unhinged



Open Postdoc position in Paris

The [Who Am I?](#) transdisciplinary Mentoring Program aims at financing innovative and crossdisciplinary post-doctoral project focusing on the identity question and specifically on the Who Am I? scientific objectives.

For more information : <https://www.philinbiomed.org/job/labex-who-am-i-postdoc-call/>

Microbes, organisms and ecosystems The ISHPSSB Off-Year Workshop

In October 2018, an ISHPSSB Off-Year Workshop, “Regeneration Across Complex Living Systems: From Regenerating Microbiomes to Ecosystems Resiliency,” took place at the Marine Biological Laboratory (MBL) in Woods Hole, MA. The Workshop convened scholars from three continents to discuss regeneration across complex living systems, drawing a total twenty-five individuals including scientists from the MBL.



Nathan Crowe (Professor at UNC Wilmington) discussing “Mid-Century Regeneration Research: A 20th Century Story”

On Monday, October 22nd, the nine speakers delivered their papers in three panels, which were loosely clustered around the levels of cells and microbes, organisms, and ecosystems. The talks ranged from a report of cutting-edge imaging technologies for assessing nerve regeneration in octopodi; to an anthropological analysis of the tension between axolotl limb regeneration and the organism’s collapsing natural habitat; to assessments of microbiome and ecosystem regeneration through both intellectual histories and present-day applications.

On Tuesday, October 23rd, the Workshop concluded with a three-hour discussion of major themes. Together, the participants grappled with the talks of the previous day in terms of the systems, processes, and results of regeneration. Some tentative conclusions were drawn for each category, including that analyses of the initial and final “states” of regenerating systems are complicated by fluctuations through time; regeneration as a process can be healing or pathological, induced or natural, and also multiply realized; and understanding the “results” of regeneration requires attention to the various timescales, from seconds to years to centuries, across which regeneration might take place. Two other questions addressed in the discussion were whether regeneration in complex living systems requires the removal of an entity in order to take place, and whether it is possible to understand regeneration without reference to adaptation. Interested readers may still visit the website here: <https://2018ishregeneration.wordpress.com/>.

The Workshop Coordinators are grateful for the funding provided by the ISHPSSB, and funding from the James S. McDonnell Foundation. Further information about the ongoing McDonnell Foundation Initiative at the MBL can be found here: <https://mcdonnellinitiativeatmbl.com/>.

From the Workshop Coordinators, Kate MacCord (kmaccord@mbl.edu) and Kathryn Maxson Jones (kmaxson@princeton.edu).

New in the Network



Pekka Louhiala recently joined the PhilInBioMed Network. He is a [lecturer in medical ethics at the University of Helsinki](#) and holds degrees both in medicine and philosophy.

Louhiala has published, among other things, medical ethics, medical philosophy and epidemiology. At present, he is interested in conceptual and philosophical problems within medicine, such as, for example, the placebo effect and evidence-based evidence-based medicine.

Some of his most recent works include:

- P, Hemilä H, Puustinen R. (2015) [Impure placebo is a useless concept](#). *Theoretical Medicine and Bioethics*
- Louhiala P. (2017) [Complementary and Alternative Medicine \(CAM\) and Its Relationship to Western Medicine](#). *Handbook of the Philosophy of Medicine*.
- Louhiala P, Puustinen R.(2017) [Meaning and use of placebo: Philosophical considerations](#). *Handbook of the Philosophy of Medicine*.



3 questions for... Lara Keuck

Lara Keuck is a [Branco Weiss Fellow](#) and leads a junior research group at the Department of History at Humboldt University Berlin (Germany). She is a member of PhilInBioMed since October 2018.

1. What sparked your interest for philosophy of science ?

I like to say: the biomedical laboratory! I was educated as a lab scientist, and, indeed, some of my philosophical research, for instance on animal models, was sparked by my experiences in the lab. But that is only part of the story. The other part begins with being immersed in the works of Ludwik Fleck: I remember being electrified when I first learned about his 'thought collectives'.

2. What is the main focus of your research ?

History and philosophy of biomedical knowledge—whereby I like to inquire

into the meaning of every single word of this expression. My general approach is to discuss meta questions, for instance on the way medical classification works, on the basis of detailed, historically situated case studies.

3. What are topics you would like to explore in the future ?

I am very interested in evaluative, reflective and retrospective practices in the biomedical sciences: those parts of reasoning in the scientific discourse that place a given research design into a broader context. I think there are interesting parallels to what historians and philosophers do—so this might be an opportunity for a fruitful PhilInBioMed-style collaboration across disciplines.

More News

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