THE MAGAZINE

- February 2019 -

The more, the merrier

Dear PhilInBioMed members,

a new edition of the PhilInBioMed Magazine is here and more and more of you are making use of this platform to share their events and publications. This is wonderful news as it makes the network come alive.

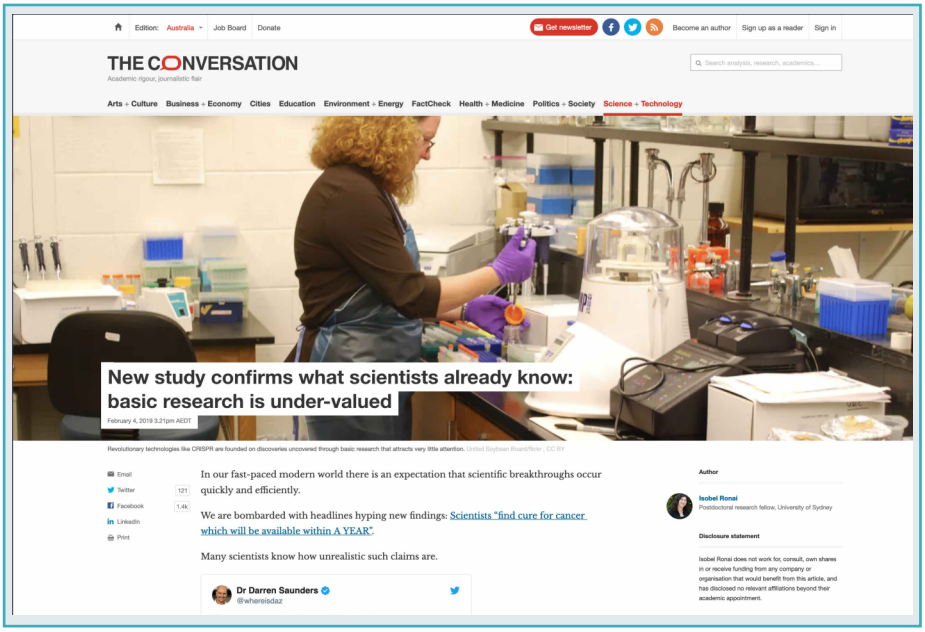
Please keep in mind that your participations are not limited to simple announcements, you may also share opinions, requests, a shout out for co-operation partners or whatever else you feel needs to be said. Simply send your article or announcement to contact@philinbiomed.org.

Cordially, your
PhilInBioMed Magazine team

New online service

You now have the possibility to post seminars, conferences and open positions, by sending an email to contact@philinbiomed.org.

This way your event or job offer can easily be found by the PhilInBioMed community and other people interested in the interdisciplinary approach promoted by PhilinBioMed.



Making research accessible

The best research does not do any good if the outcomes are not made known. This includes of course to publish in peer reviewed academic journals, but is that enough? It might be if you wish to be read almost exclusively by your peers. But what about the greater public? Given that a lot of research is financed by tax payers money, it seems only fair to provide access to the newly acquired knowledge by republishing your results under a creative commons license.

The Australian initiative "The conversation" (https://theconversation.com) is a web based independent non-profit journal that publishes news and views from the academic world. Researchers write about their areas of expertise, making their knowledge accessible to everyone. The project is supported by numerous renowend scientist from around the globe. The goal is to provide free reliable information to the public.

Isobel Ronai, a former PhD student from Paul Griffith's lab, recently re-published her results on the funding of basic research on The Conversation. The original article had appeared in Trends in Molecular Medicine. Maybe you, one of your PhD students or post-doc aspires to a (side-)career in science communication? Then "The Conversation" might be the place to start.

Podcast

Jonathan Fuller (University of Toronto) has started a podcast series entitled "Philosophers on Medicine". In each 20 minute episode a philosopher is interviewed about his / her work on medicine and healthcare.

Topics include the meaning and reality of disease, skeptical worries about evidence-based medicine, and current movements and controversies that shake medicine to its philosophical foundations.

Episodes can be streamed from: www.philosophersonmedicin.com or listened to on iTunes Podcasts or Google Play. New episodes will be posted monthly.

Conference on HPV invection & genital microbiota

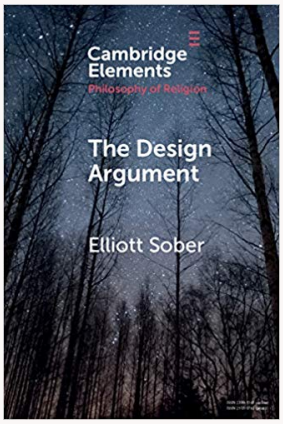
Genital infections by human papillomaviruses (HPVs) cause many cancers, including nearly all cervical cancers. On **March 18th and 19th** an international conference entitled "**HPV infection & genital microbiota dynamics**" will take place in Montpellier, France. The aim of the conference is to put HPV infections back in their ecological context, with a particular focus on the immune response and the vaginal microbiota. It will bring together clinicians, immunologists, modelers, epidemiologists, evolutionary biologists, environmental genomicists and vaginal microbiota experts.

Special Issue Biology & Philosophy on CRISPR-Cas

The new Biology & Philosophy is a special issue on CRISPR-Cas. In a target paper Eugene V. Koonin presents the CRISPR-Cas system as the best known case in point for Lamarckian evolution. He continues to describe it as an adaptive immune system, based on self non-self discrimination and he concludes by analyzing the role of CRISPR-Cas in cell death and dormancy induction in microbes.

The article is followed by a series of commentaries written by biologist and philosophers of biology, including Sophie Juliane Veigl, Thomas Pradeu, and Jean-François Moreau.

Out now: The Design Argument



Design arguments for the existence of God begin with observations, but so do other arguments for that conclusion. What is distinctive about design arguments is that they find goal-directedness in nature; the observed facts are said to obtain because God wanted them to.

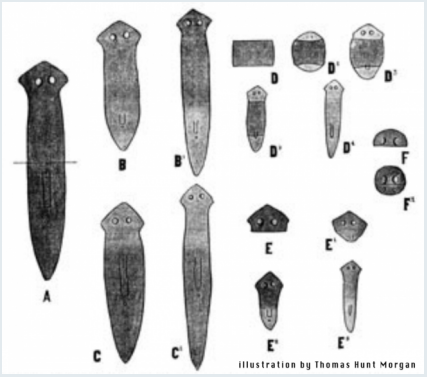
In his latest book - The Design Argument - Elliott Sober analyzes the various forms that design arguments for the existence of God can take, and takes a closer look on how creationists misunderstand evolutionary biology.

Free online until February 14th :
https://doi.org/10.1017/9781108558068

Seminar on Regeneration

All living systems, from microbial communities, to ecosystems, possess some capacity to repair and to maintain themselves in the face of events that cause disturbances or damage. But does the concept of regeneration mean the same thing in each case?

From **May 16th-21st** the MBL-ASU History of Biology Seminar "**Uncovering the Logic of Regeneration across Complex Living Systems**" will bring together a mix of historians, philosophers, socialscientists, and biologists for a lively and intense week of presentations, discussions, and explorations.



Upcoming

March 2019

5th Charles Pence: "The Wonderful Form of Cosmic Order" - Bringing Statistics to Evolution, Bordeaux, France

18th-19th Conference on "HPV infection & genital microbiota dynamics", Montpellier, France

May 2019

16th-21st Seminar: Uncovering the Logic of Regeneration across Complex Living Systems, MBL, Woods Hole

June 2019

2nd - July 15th Embryology: Concepts & Techniques in Modern Developmental Biology, MBL, Woods Hole

6th Workshop: "Fitness meets Niche Construction and Symbiosis", Krakow, Poland

24th-28th Summer school: Data & Health, Angers, France

July 2019

1th-5th Summer school: Microbiota, Symbiosis and Individuality: Conceptual and Philosophical Issues, Biarritz, France

Summer school: Data & Health

Designed by Jérémy Segard

Big data and algorithms are profoundly transforming contemporary medicine. From the **24th-28th of June** the University of Angers (France) is organizing an interdisciplinary summer school on **Data & Health**, which will present the genetic and bioinformatics foundations of this evolution and its philosophical, ethical, legal, sociological, and psychological issues.

The aim is to provide an overview of a set of problems, related to the use of data in health. The course is intended for students and researchers interested in medicine, genetics, bioinformatic, laws or humanities.

The program will be entirely taught in English. For more information: http://summerschools.univ-angers.fr/en/index/about-schools/schools/data-health.html

2 PhD positions available

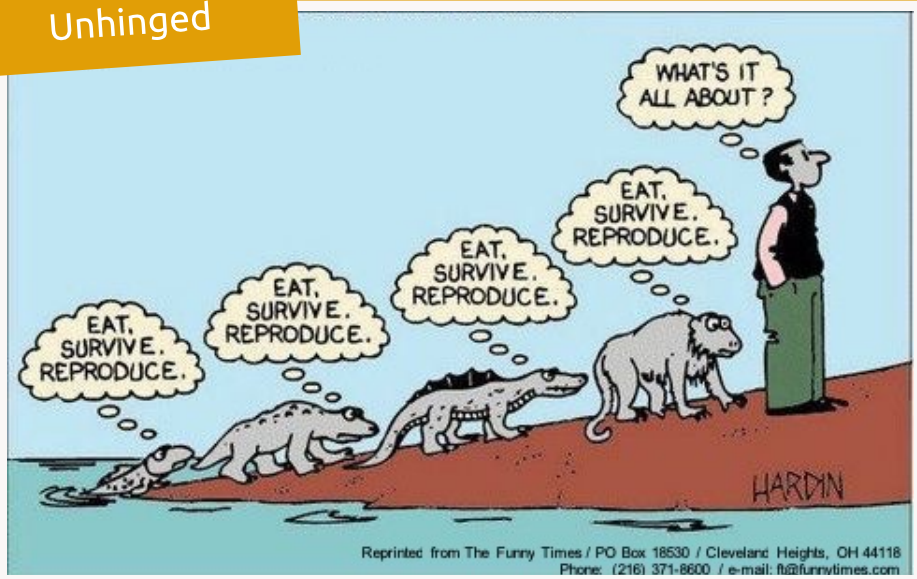
The Immunoconcept Lab in Bordeaux is looking for two talented PhD candidates interested in a thesis in:

- Philosophy of cancer and
- Philosophy of pre-clinical research (with a cancer component)

The PhD students will work in close collaboration with leading philosophers and scientists. A background in both philosophy and biology or medicine would be a plus, but is not required. Each thesis would begin in October 2019 and run for a period of three years.

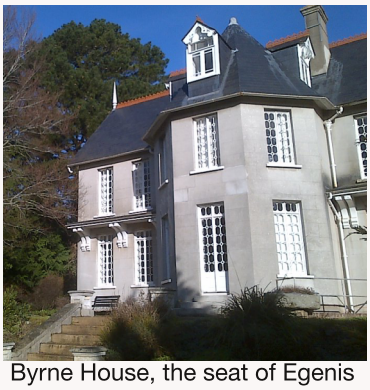
Interested candidates can request more information from Maël Lemoine (Mael.Lemoine@u-bordeaux.fr).

Unhinged



Inter-Network exchange

The PhilInBioMed network connects philosophers and scientists from all over the globe. The PhilInBioMed Magazine is one way to bring the members of the network into closer contact. However, nothing can replace direct face to face interactions, which is why a stay in one of the different partner institutions is an excellent way to strengthen network ties.



Byrne House, the seat of Egenis

From February 11th to March 30th 2019, Sophier Gerber, a plant geneticist from BIOGECO lab in Bordeaux, will be welcomed by Exeter Centre for the Study of the Life Sciences (Egenis). John Dupré and Sabina Leonelli, director and co-director of Egenis, invited her to work on the project « The unseen plants? Les plantes occultées ? ». The stay will be financed by the French research organisation INRA.

The aim of this philosophical-scientific collaboration is to reflect on the place of different categories of plants and how we perceive them. Sophie Gerber says she wants try to leave the herbarium static vision to reach a more dynamic way of considering these organisms.

The 2nd PhilInBioMed Meeting

The 2nd PhilInBioMed Meeting will take place on October 14th-15th 2019 in Bordeaux. It will bring together senior and junior researchers working on conceptual issues located at the interface between philosophy, biology, and medicine. The keynote speakers will be Eugene Koonin (NIH) and Elliott Sober (Wisconsin).

A call for papers will be launched in early March. All the information will be under: www.philinbiomed.org/event/second-international-meeting.

3 questions for Virginie Courtier-Orgogozo

Virginie Courtier-Orgogozo is a biologist and Research Director at the CNRS. In 2014 she recieved the bronze medal of the CNRS and she was awarded the Prix Irène Joliot-Curie as the young female scientist of the year for her work analyzing the mutations responsible for changes that have occurred during the evolution of several species of Drosophila flies. Today she is the head of the team Evolution & Genetics at the Institut Jacques Monod, Paris, France.

What sparked your interest for philosophy of science ?

I have always been attracted to big, metaphysical questions and I love to think in different ways about my object of study, living beings. It is thanks to discussions with Thomas Pradeu about ten years ago that I discovered philosophy of biology and that I realized that philosophy could bring a lot to my research.

What is your main research focus ?

With my team we try to understand how closely related species of Drosophila flies diverge over time. Our goal is to obtain a detailed understanding of the processes involved in the evolution of species.

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

Ideally in the future I would like to use flies as a laboratory model organism to try to understand how a non-human individual categorizes the world and represents itself.