

PhilInBioMed

THE MAGAZINE

- April 2019 -

Calls and conferences

Dear PhilInBioMed members,

In this issue you will find the call for contributions for the 2nd PhilInBioMed meeting, an invitation to the Philosophy of Medicine Roundtable, and many other big and small events of the PhilInBioMed world. Enjoy the read !

Cordially, your
PhilInBioMed Magazine team
contact@philinbiomed.org

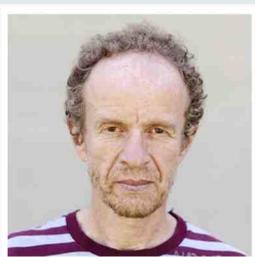
October 14th-15th, 2019

Call for
contributions

2nd Meeting
of the
PhilInBioMed
International
Network

Call for contributions 2nd PhilInBioMed Meeting

The first Meeting of the PhilInBioMed International Network has been considered a success by all parties involved. Junior and senior researchers had come together to discuss conceptual issues located at the interface between philosophy, biology, and medicine. Now the call for contributions of the [2nd Meeting of the PhilInBioMed International Network](#) is open.



Plenary speakers will be Eugene Koonin and Elliott Sober. Koonin, a biologist and senior investigator at the NIH, is most known for his work on evolutionary and computational biology. Sober is a Professor in the Philosophy Department at UW Madison. He recently published his latest book *The Design Argument*.



A call for communications is now open and philosophers as well as scientists are encouraged to send in abstracts for 30 minute oral presentations (20 minutes + 10 for discussion) on **any subject combining biological or medical science with a conceptual or philosophical approach in such a way that the resulting paper makes an important contribution from both a scientific and a philosophical point of view.**

Eugene Koonin (top) and
Elliott Sober (bottom)

Abstracts must be submitted to [Lucie Laplane](#) by May 30th, 2019. For more information on the selection process, funding opportunities and the meeting in general, please refer to www.philinbiomed.org/event/second-international-meeting.

8th Philosophy of Medicine Roundtable

The International Philosophy of Medicine Roundtable (IPMR) is an open group of philosophers, clinicians, epidemiologists, social scientists, statisticians, bioethicists, and anyone else with an interest in epistemological and ontological issues connected with medicine. The IPMR is the first organization in the philosophy of medicine whose focus is not on bioethics or psychiatry.

Every other year the IPMR organizes the world's largest conference in philosophy of medicine (i.e. philosophy of medical science). This year the roundtable will take place in Paris on June 20th-21st. It is organized by Maël Lemoine, Professor at the University of Bordeaux and member of PhilInBioMed.



Maël Lemoine, organizer of this year's roundtable.

The goal is to have health scientists and practitioners meet with philosophers of science on medical-philosophical questions. The full program can be accessed here:

<https://philosmed.wordpress.com/2017-roundtable/>.

Registration is now open and required. You can sign up [here](#).

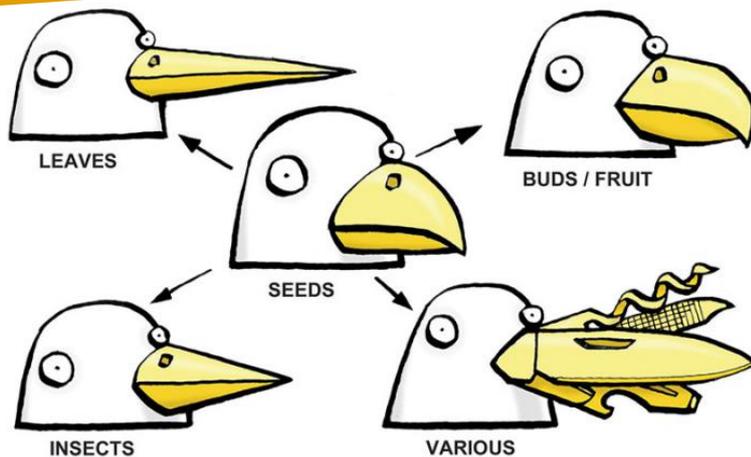
Krakow conference on Medical Nihilism

Jacob Stegenga from the University of Cambridge has been invited to give a guest lecture on his latest Book *Medical Nihilism* at the Jagiellonian University of Krakow.



The lecture will be on the 7th of May 2019 at 10:30 at the III Kampus Gronostajowa 7, room P0.1.1. The event is open to all, no inscription is necessary.

Unhinged



Workshop Science & Values

Egenis, the Centre for the Study of



Life Sciences at the University of Exeter is organizing a workshop on "Science & Values" on June 20th-21st.

Philosophical questions surrounding scientific realism, for instance, often turn on the epistemic value or otherwise of virtues such as 'simplicity'.

While historians have long recognised this, philosophers have recently begun to acknowledge a wide range of values - the political, moral and aesthetic - in understanding scientific practices.

This opens up a variety of new questions, both historical and philosophical, regarding the relationship between scientific practice and its historical development on the one hand, and the role of values — understood broadly.

Consideration of the role of values in research provokes a host of historical and philosophical questions, typically well suited to an integrated HPS approach. This meeting of the iHPS will focus on such questions.

For more information and to register please go to:

<http://www.exeter.ac.uk/news/events/details/index.php?event=9259>.

New articles in eLIFE



eLIFE

As announced in last month's *PhilInBioMed Magazine*, eLIFE now has a new series for [Philosophy of Biology](#). This month *PhilInBioMed* members are again among the authors published in this section.

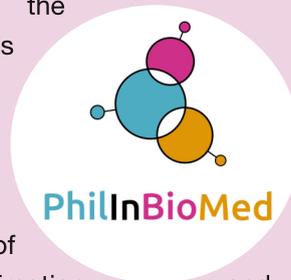
In her article [The challenges of big data theory](#), Sabina Leonelli explores how big data has the potential to transform many areas of the life sciences.

Thomas Pradeu writes about [Immunology and individuality](#) and discusses two aspects of the ongoing dialogue between philosophers and immunologists: biological individuality and immunogenicity.

New members of the PhilInBioMed network

The interdisciplinary approach promoted by the *PhilInBioMed* network is gaining momentum, which is also reflected in the growing number of [PhilInBioMed members](#). Here are the newcomers:

- [Ralph Adolphs](#) is a Professor of Psychology, Neuroscience, and Biology at the California Institute of Technology. Furthermore he is the Director of the Emotion and Social Cognition Lab, which investigates the neural underpinnings of human social behavior.
- [Ford Doolittle](#) is a Professor Emeritus at the Department of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology of the Dalhousie University, Halifax, Canada. His research examines prevailing concepts in genomics, molecular biology and microbial ecology, with regards to the understanding of evolution by natural selection.
- [Eugene Koonin](#) is a Senior Investigator at the National Center for Biotechnology Information and head of the Evolutionary Genomics Research Group. He is one of the plenary speakers of the [2nd PhilInBioMed meeting](#).
- [Suresh Rattan](#) is at the Department of Molecular Biology and Genetics, Aarhus University, Denmark. His interests and expertise include the biological basis and modulation of ageing.



2019 edition of the PCBS research workshop

On May 9th-10th will take place the 9th edition of the [Philosophy of Biology and Cognitive Sciences \(PBCS\) research workshop](#). The 2019 edition will be hosted by the University of the Basque Country in San Sebastian.



Philosophy of Biology and Cognitive Sciences

2019 Research Workshop, San Sebastian

Upcoming

May 2019

7th Lecture by J. Stegenga: [Medical Nihilism](#), Krakow, Poland

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

24th Sabina Leonelli: [Actionable Data for Precision Oncology](#), Bordeaux, France

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

20th-21st 8th [Philosophy of Medicine Roundtable](#), Paris, France

20th-21st Workshop [Science & Values](#), Exeter, UK

24th-28th Summer school: [Data & Health](#), Angers, France

July 2019

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

A journey between cultures and disciplines

Sophie Gerber, a plant geneticist from Bordeaux, returned from a 7-week research stay at the University of Exeter (11/02-30/03/2019) at the **Egenis Centre**: "The centre for the study of life sciences, investigates the philosophical and social ramifications of contemporary biological and genetic sciences".



Egenis brings together researchers with a wide range of subjects, philosophers and historians of biology, of paleontology, of cognition, health sociologists, an artist, most of whom come from countries other than Great Britain. Several PhD students came to follow a course during the same period, from Italy, Germany, Spain. No French researchers were met during the stay. The discussions were numerous and rich, around humanities, with of course a focus on plants. Seminars were attended at the University, particularly in literature and also in Egenis, as well as thematic discussion groups around manuscripts or articles (she had a special involvement in the "cognition group" on "plant intelligence"). Visiting the University of Bristol (twin city of Bordeaux, with similarities) she also presented her plant philosophy work at the School of Biological Science.



Even when going to the pub (by bike), Sophie always keeps an open eye for unusual plants

There were many exchanges, including outside Exeter, but sometimes solitude as well, probably inherent to this type of mission (is the experience similar for our foreign visitors?). Going to the pub, after the seminars constitutes a regular social event, with pints of beer (without anything to eat!). The outcome of the stay will be measured in the following months, by compiling the rich (plant) material gathered, maintaining the established contacts.

3 questions for Gérard Eberl

Gérard Eberl is a Professor of Immunology at the **Institut Pasteur**. There he is also the leader of the **Microenvironment and Immunity team** and head of the **Department of Immunology**. His research projects include one project on **sybiotic microbiota and the development and regulation of the immune system**, and one on the role of **Intestinal lymphoid cells (ILCs) in defense and physiology**.



1. What sparked your interest for philosophy of science ?

It is not that I am interested per se in the philosophy of science. I am just trying to understand, in a more global way, the logic of the systems I work with, in order to generate working hypotheses. In that aim, the philosophers of science (in particular Thomas Pradeu) have been key.

2. What is your main research focus ?

My research focus is immunology, as a discipline

that aims to understand how homeostasis is maintained by the organism when interacting with so many others.

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

The consequences of derailment of these mechanisms, which lead to pathology in a way more subtle and integrative way (integrating genetic, microbial, historical dimensions) than previously appreciated.

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