

The Magazine

June 2022

Introduction

Hello **PiBM** network members!

Summer is just around the corner and while many of us are preparing to travel as restrictions are (finally) normalizing, the world of PiBM is pressing on. This month, the newsletter is filled with many new jobs for PhDs and post-docs; with the tough job market out there, don't miss these amazing opportunities (some of the deadlines are very soon)! Alongside some upcoming conference announcements and thoughtful publications, we also have a couple detailed reports about an exciting PiBM summer school that recently took place in Bordeaux.

Enjoy your reading and have a great summer!

Jobs!

[1 year Postdoc on Philosophy of \(Skin\) Cancer at ImmunoConcept, Bordeaux](#)

The candidate will investigate the evolution and phylogenetics of photoprotection in relation to skin cancer and photoaging. The main goal is to co-write a conceptual piece on that question. The position starts in September 2022 and lasts for 12 months.

There is a strong interdisciplinary and international context since the postdoc will join the *Conceptual Biology and Medicine* team at ImmunoConcept and work in collaboration with several other cancer research units on the campus. The postdoc will also enjoy numerous interactions with top scientists and philosophers visiting the lab and participate in international activities.

Contact **Maël Lemoine** for further information: mael.lemoine@u-bordeaux.fr

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Jobs and more jobs!

3 year Postdoc on Cancer-Microbiota at ImmunoConcept, Bordeaux

‘How does the microbiome influence cancer development and progression across different species?’ Open to philosophers, biologists, and MDs.

Quick overview:

- Postdoc position available now for applications (starting from June 2022)
- Funding: [Moore Foundation](#)
- PI: Thomas Pradeu (CNRS Research Director, ImmunoConcEpT, University of Bordeaux, France)
 - Duration: 3 years, starting from the end of 2022 or the beginning of 2023
 - Location: Bordeaux, France, in a thriving interdisciplinary environment, constituted by the Conceptual Biology and Medicine team embedded in a biology lab and the broader PhilInBioMed international network.
 - Candidate’s profile: both philosophers of science interested in contributing to biology and medicine and biologists or medical doctors interested in conceptual and theoretical approaches are welcome to apply.
 - Salary: CNRS standard postdoc salaries (the exact amount depends on the previous experience of the applicant).
 - Main question of the research project: How does the microbiome influence cancer development and progression across different species?

Visit this site for further details: <https://www.philinbiomed.org/job/postdoc-cancer-microbiome/>. If you are interested, please contact [Thomas Pradeu](#) at thomas.pradeu@u-bordeaux.fr

PhD in ‘Philosophy of Biology on Clonal Evolution’ in Paris

A PhD position is available to work with [Lucie Laplane](#) (CNRS, Paris I & Gustave Roussy) and [Leïla Perié](#) (CNRS, Institut Curie) on rethinking clonal evolution in cancer. The position is open to philosophers of biology as well as theoretical scientists. Philosophers will need some good background knowledge of biology, an interest to work with scientists, in a lab, and the desire to contribute to science. The work will be mainly conceptual, although the candidate will be welcome to participate in experimental work if she/he wants to.

(More details on next page)



Still more jobs...!

Type of Contract : PhD Student contract / Thesis offer

Contract Period : 36 months

Start date of the thesis : 3 October 2022

Proportion of work : Full time

Remuneration : 2 135,00 € gross monthly

Please contact [Lucie Laplane](#) as soon as possible if you are interested: (laplanettelucie@gmail.com) and be aware that the deadline is soon – July 11!

Here is the application link with further details: <https://emploi.cnrs.fr/Offres/Doctorant/UMR8590-LUCLAP-002/Default.aspx?lang=EN>

[PhD and Postdoc in Philosophy of Science, University of Copenhagen](#)

These positions should be of particular interest to philosophers of biology with an interest in biodiversity science and/or the role of values in scientific practice. The deadline for applications is 28 August 2022 (23:59 GMT +2).

PhD in philosophy of science: <https://tinyurl.com/2p863tz2>

Post-doc in philosophy of science / STS: <https://tinyurl.com/yckazztu>

Both positions are part of the research project “Tackling the conservationist’s dilemma: towards a pluralist philosophy of taxonomy for species conservation policy” (2022-2026, PI: Joeri Witteveen).

For any further information, please email [Joeri Witteveen: jw@ind.ku.dk](mailto:jw@ind.ku.dk).

CFA's

[FINAL CALL: Philosophy and Neuroscience at the Gulf V](#)

Fifth Annual Meeting of the Deep South Philosophy and Neuroscience Workgroup
Co-organized by: [John Bickle](#) (Mississippi State University and University of Mississippi Medical Center) and [Ann-Sophie Barwich](#) (Indiana University Bloomington).

WORKSHOP THEMES: Philosophy of Neuroscience Varia; Microscopy in Neuroscience.

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CFAs (cont.)

Please mark your calendars for the fifth annual workshop, Philosophy and Neuroscience at the Gulf V, of the Deep South Philosophy and Neuroscience Workgroup, currently planned for an in-person meeting at the beachfront Hilton Pensacola Beach Hotel, Pensacola Beach, FL, from Thursday, September 22 through Saturday, September 24!

For this year's meeting we are calling for submitted abstracts for talks on any topic in current philosophy of neuroscience broadly construed ("philosophy of neuroscience varia"), but also for talks on a special session planned on the role of microscopy in neuroscience research. We will further feature our usual annual events, including invited speakers, invited neuroscientist keynote lectures and short "blitz" talks to accommodate as many participants as possible.

Abstracts (up to 750 words) for submitted presentations at this year's workshop will be due by July 1, 2022.

All interested parties can contact **John Bickle** at jbickle@philrel.msstate.edu or **Ann-Sophie Barwich** at abarwich@iu.edu for more information or to submit an abstract.

Participants will be responsible for their own travel costs; the Hilton Pensacola Beach will offer special conference rates to all participants for Wednesday night, September 21 through Sunday, September 25. There is no workshop registration fee; funding from the Department of Philosophy and Religion at Mississippi State University pays for workshop meeting space, lunches for all participants on Thursday, September 22, and coffee and refreshment breaks each day.

The Deep South Philosophy and Neuroscience Workgroup is an American Philosophical Association (APA)-affiliated group dedicated to promoting professional interactions between philosophers and neuroscientists through transdisciplinary research and meetings to promulgate results of these interactions. For more information about its events consult its web site: www.deepsouthphilneuro.com

Other Announcements

The **University of Bordeaux** is offering some interesting course programs related to the philosophy of medicine (see next page)...

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Other Announcements (cont.)

- Registration is open for the inter-university diploma of “Philosophy of the psychiatry”. Inscription is through the following link (in French):

https://apoflux-du.u-bordeaux.fr/etudiant/individu/individu_validation_mail.php?type=etape&val=8UVPE9&college=SAN&composante=S33

- Registration is open for the university diploma of “Narrative medicine.” Inscription is through the following link (in French):

https://apoflux-du.u-bordeaux.fr/etudiant/individu/individu_validation_mail.php?type=etape&val=8UUNA9&college=SAN&composante=S37

For any questions about either position, please contact **Jean-Arthur Micoulaud-Franchi**: jarthur.micoulaud@gmail.com

Watch a recent talk at Bordeaux’s biomedical sciences department on “truth in the biomedical sciences” by **Dr. Andreas Bikfalvi**: <https://sbm.u-bordeaux.fr/evenements/seminaire-dandreas-bikfalvi> If troubles with the link arise, please contact Dr. Bikfalvi at: andreas.bikfalvi@u-bordeaux.fr

Publications

Ratti, E. & Germain, P-L. (2022). “A relic of design: against proper functions in biology”. *Biology & Philosophy*. <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10539-022-09856-z>

Solomon, M. (2022). “A Pragmatic Approach to Diagnostic Categorization,” in Michael D. Lockshin et al. (eds) *Diagnoses without Names: Challenges for Medical Care, Research and Policy* (Springer).

Solomon, M., Foderà, V., Langkilde, A.E. et al. (2022). “Recommendations for addressing the translational gap between experimental and clinical research on amyloid diseases”. *J Transl Med* 20, 213.

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Publications (cont.)

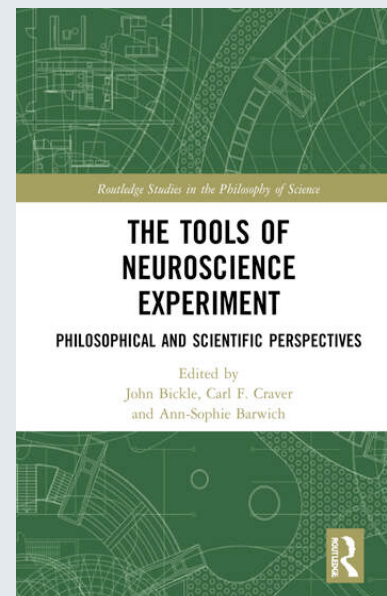
Torri A, Jaeger J, Pradeu T, Saleh M-C. (2022). "The origin of RNA interference: Adaptive or neutral evolution?" *PLoS Biol* 20(6): e3001715. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pbio.3001715>

Zach, M. (2022). "A Complementary Account of Scientific Modelling: Modelling Mechanisms in Cancer Immunology". *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*. <https://www.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/10.1086/721530>

Bickle, J. Craver, C.F., & Barwich, A-S. (Eds). *The Tools of Neuroscience Experiment: Philosophical and Scientific Perspectives*. (2022). Routledge. <https://www.routledge.com/The-Tools-of-Neuroscience-Experiment-Philosophical-and-Scientific-Perspectives/Bickle-Craver-Barwich/p/book/9781032127996>

- To see and download the flyer with book details and a discount, click the following link:

<https://upload.immuconcept.org/?t=a3442cfd376bd203a8f045e0efed1452>



Reports from Recent PiBM Event!

In the following pages, you can find two reports about the recent [PiBM Summer School](#) held at Bordeaux: one by an organizer from Bordeaux, **Fridolin Gross**, and another by a participant, **Victoria Wang**, who kindly agreed to us including her thoughts. Only part of Victoria's review was included for brevity, but please follow the link to her blog to read the whole review - and see some of her nice pictures. The event was quite a success, and we are excited for the next iteration!

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Reports from Recent PiBM Event! (cont.)

Bordeaux Summer School Report – by Fridolin Gross

The PhilinBioMed Summer School took place in Bordeaux from June 7 to 10. It brought together 36 participants from different backgrounds (from philosophy as well as from different areas of science and medicine), and at different levels (Master, PhD, Postdoc). Unlike the 2019 edition, which was centered around questions related to the microbiota, the latest summer school did not focus on any specific theme. Instead, its aim was to introduce, discuss, and apply the Philosophy in Science (PinS) approach in the context of life sciences.

The program included talks by distinguished philosophers (Angela Potochnik, Elliott Sober, Paul Griffiths, Alan Love, and Lucie Laplane) who had the opportunity to discuss work they did in collaboration with scientists. An inverse perspective was provided in a series of “PinS Experience” sessions in which scientists from the Bordeaux region shared their experiences working with philosophers. In addition, there were several instructive talks by the organizers, for example, on the basic features of the PinS approach and on practical challenges that can arise in collaborations between scientists and philosophers.

An important part of the summer school consisted of a group activity in which participants were asked to simulate the PinS approach by working on a small project, which they presented on the last day of the summer school. During this activity, it became clear how difficult it is to find a relevant scientific question that can be meaningfully addressed using philosophical tools (especially over a short period). In the end, however, all groups achieved very interesting results and the diversity of their presentations, both in form and content, was extremely impressive.

Moreover, the summer school provided ample space for critical discussions about PinS and the challenges associated with this approach. For example, it was emphasized several times that collaboration requires the development of a common language.

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Reports from Recent PiBM Event! (cont.)

For the philosophers, this means that appropriate interaction with the respective scientific culture is of central importance, which goes beyond textbook knowledge and includes, for example, participation in lab meetings or even learning some of the basic experimental techniques of the field. Participants were also interested in questions related to career choice. Should one start early with a philosophy in science approach, or would it be better to first develop a clear profile in a specific discipline? What kind of audience should one target and in which journals should one publish? Of course, there are no blanket answers to these questions, but it was interesting to see the variety of options and possible paths.

Overall, the summer school showed that there is a great interest among young researchers in collaborations between scientists and philosophers. Philosophy in science is one way to approach such collaborations, but the discussion about how it can best be implemented and how it relates to other interdisciplinary approaches will continue.

Philosophy IN biology & medicine, in Bordeaux – by Victoria Wang

Last week I had the good fortune of taking part in a four-day workshop called “Philosophy in biology and medicine” as part of the University of Bordeaux summer schools. The workshop was organised by the PhilInBioMed network, which was founded five years ago.

The practice of philosophy in science (PinS) can be contrasted to the more traditional approach of philosophy of science, which is what most philosophy departments teach. One way of looking at the distinction is to imagine philosophy of science as taking scientific practice as a philosophical subject and asking questions like: How do the sciences enable us to learn and know about the world? What roles do models play in science? Does science make progress over time? Does science aim at truth? What is the importance of team work in science? What roles, if any, do values play in science? And so forth.

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Reports from Recent PiBM Event! (cont.)

In contrast, PinS aims to contribute to scientific knowledge by fostering collaborations between philosophers and scientists. PinS “appropriates” the tools and knowledge of trained philosophers to shed light on tricky questions in the sciences. For example, two of the course leaders at the workshop were Thomas Pradeu and Lucie Laplane who have worked on the self/non-self distinction in immunology and the categorisation of cancer stem cells, respectively. The idea is not only that these philosophers, who sometimes also have formal training in biology, apply philosophical tools to the scientific question at hand, but – in the best case scenario – contribute to scientific advancement. In the case of Lucie Laplane’s work, for example, a better understanding of what cancer stem cells are – are they fixed entities in a given tumour or is “stemness” a property of the tumour as a whole? – could lead to better treatment options. In particular, it might change the strategies with which scientists/doctors approach cancer treatment.

Now, this might sound a bit dry when viewed from the outside, but don’t forget that all of this was happening in the southwest of France and instead of boring sandwiches we were provided with glass-bottled salads for lunch, and macarons and cannelés during the afternoon coffee breaks ...

(To read the rest of Victoria’s thoughtful review, with pictures, please visit her blog, to which she contributes regularly: <https://lovecells.wordpress.com/2022/06/16/philosophy-in-biology-and-medicine-in-bordeaux/>)

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Reports from Recent PiBM Event! (cont.)

Below is the group picture from the summer school taken by a local photographer. For more pictures and several interviews between the invited speakers and their scientific collaborators, please visit the website: <https://www.philinbiomed.org/philinbiomed-summer-school-2022/>



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