



The Magazine

February 2023

Introduction

Hello **PiBM** network members!

Following on the heels of the previous newsletter, we are back with a surprising number of events and announcements from the world of PiBM in the short month of February. Thanks for all your quick input! It seems that the coming month(s) will be filled with exciting events around the world and there are several not-to-be-missed announcements below. There is a lot to report, so let's get started.

Enjoy!

Post-graduate Opportunities

[Postdoc position in the GenderSci Lab, Harvard](#)

The postdoc would work collaboratively on issues of gender/sex in the natural and biomedical sciences, and the position is open to scholars from a variety of disciplines and interdisciplinary backgrounds.

Note that the current deadline is March 1!!

Details can be found here: <https://academicpositions.harvard.edu/postings/12096>

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Post-graduate Opportunities (cont.)

[Bordeaux's Philosophy in Biology & Medicine MA - Last Calls!](#)

The Master Philosophy in Biology and Medicine at Bordeaux is accepting any and all final applications for the next academic year (starting September 1, 2023). Interested students should contact us now (mael.lemoine@u-bordeaux.fr).

This program (presented here: www.philinbiomed.org/teaching) is designed for philosophy students who have a strong appetite for collaboration with scientists, particularly in the areas of cancer, immunology, microbiota, systems biology, nutrition, neuroscience, and aging. The students will have the opportunity to be embedded in research in scientific labs as well as be integrated into a very dynamic international community of philosophers and scientists.

Please keep in mind that the master is exceptionally inexpensive, but very competitive (as we will only hire 5 students per year). It is 100% in English.

Thanks for forwarding this information to anyone you think might be interested, and thanks again to those who have already done so.

Jobs

[Associate Professor in Epistemology of Medicine at Sorbonne \(Paris\)](#)

There is an open position for associate professor (maître de conférences) in history and epistemology of the biomedical sciences at Sorbonne Université in Paris. Here is a PDF with the job details (in French): https://www.galaxie.enseignementsup-recherche.gouv.fr/ensup/ListesPostesPublies/FIDIS/0755890V/FOPC_0755890V_445.pdf

Note that the current deadline is March 3!

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[Philosophy in Biology & Medicine Summer School, Bordeaux](#)

The PhilinBioMed network, the University of Bordeaux, the CNRS and Bordeaux Summer Schools, are pleased to announce the launch of the 2023 edition of the Philosophy in Biology and Medicine Summer School (<https://bss-philinbiomed.u-bordeaux.fr/en/>).

Taking place in the historic city center of Bordeaux, France, from June 12th to June 16th, 2023, it welcomes Master students, PhD students, and postdocs, from the fields of philosophy, life sciences, and medicine. Participants will learn to use interdisciplinary methods to address conceptual issues in scientific research.

The Summer School starts with a lecture by Elliott Sober (University of Wisconsin), laureate of the 2023 PhilInBioMed Award. Discussants are Kevin Lala (formerly Laland), Ford Doolittle, and Silvia De Monte.

Course leaders will be present throughout the week providing examples of interdisciplinary research based on their own experience, as well as interacting and advising participants on their projects. Course leaders include Silvia De Monte (Evolutionary Biology, ENS Paris), Andy Ewald (Medicine, Johns Hopkins), Lucie Laplane (Philosophy, IHPST Paris & Gustave Roussy), and Lauren Ross (Philosophy, UC Irvine), along with local organizers.

The deadline for registration is March 31st, 2023. The fees are 500 € for master students and PhD students and 700 € for postdocs (including lunch, coffee breaks and accommodation). A limited number of grants will be available upon demand.

If you are interested, please visit the webpage mentioned above.



Conferences & Workshops

[Evolutionary Transitions in Individuality Workshop, Max Planck Institute](#)

Pierrick Bourrat (Macquarie University), Katrin Hammerschmidt (Kiel University), Guilhem Doucier (Macquarie University, MPI Plön), Paul Rainey (MPI Plön) are organizing this workshop from 22–26 May 2023. The workshop will start with a welcome event on Monday evening.

Evolutionary transitions in individuality (ETIs) are events of major significance in the history of life. During an ETI, collectives become units of selection in their own right. ETIs of particular note include the evolution of chromosomes (from genes), the eukaryotic cell (from an ancestral eubacterium and archaeobacterium) and multicellularity (from single cells). Their study requires inputs from a wide range of disciplines to answer some of the general questions of the field:

- Are there general mechanisms that underlie the different kinds of ETIs? Conversely, how do specific instances of ETIs differ from the general pattern?
- Can evolutionary individuality be quantified to provide a measure of the progress of an ETI?
- What are the conditions for a biological system to undergo a successful ETI?

The goal of this workshop is to gather a diverse community of experimentalists, philosophers and modellers to foster exchanges and collaborations. In this spirit, the number of participants will be limited, and presentations will be kept short to allow for in-depth discussions.

For more information about invited speakers and other practical details, see <https://workshops.evolbio.mpg.de/event/80/>



Conferences & Workshops (cont.)

Egenis Workshops

Egenis is hosting five international workshops and six major lectures in the coming five months, hybrid participation especially for the lecture is warmly welcomed – for workshops, this is not always possible though there is the opportunity to join parts of the meetings online. For details and registration information, see below and on this page: <https://sociology.exeter.ac.uk/research/sts/egenis/activities/events/> Below are the events in March:

Workshop: Perspectives on Scientific Practice - 15 March

We often think of science in a rather abstract, disembodied manner—as a collection of theories, for instance, or as a special method for gaining knowledge of the world. And yet science is also a human practice, carried out in a particular material and social context. This workshop will explore new ways of understanding scientific practice and consider their implications for the nature of scientific knowledge. Full details can be found here: <http://www.exeter.ac.uk/news/events/details/index.php?event=12723>

Workshop: Community Engagement as Scientific Practice - 28 March

With this workshop, three philosophers of science who have experimented with various forms of engaged philosophy across different continents come together to reflect on their experiences and discuss the role of community engagement (and particularly minority and underrepresented communities) in the development, evaluation and use of scientific knowledge, as well as within philosophy and science studies. All who are interested in the role that philosophy, history and social studies of science can play across different societies – and especially in cases where relevant voices and contributions tend to be overlooked due to inequity, discrimination and unfair privilege – are warmly welcome to join this conversation. Full details can be found here: <http://www.exeter.ac.uk/news/events/details/index.php?event=12716>

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Conferences & Workshops (cont.)

Workshop “Whither Open Science?” - 30-31 March

OS movement is transforming research, with OS policies adopted around the globe and widespread agreement on implementing key OS principles like openness, transparency and reproducibility. However, the philosophy of science underpinning the OS movement has not been clearly articulated. Moreover, there are significant epistemic risks in implementing OS across widely different research settings, such as the marginalisation of contributions from low-resourced environments. This raises questions about the relation between open and good science. Full details can be found here: <http://www.exeter.ac.uk/news/events/details/index.php?event=12681>

[Predicting Evolution: The Price Equation and Its Applications, Hannover](#)

This workshop will be held in Königlicher Pferdestall, Hannover, from March 16-17, 2023.

Is the Price Equation a unifying law for generalized Darwinism, or is it an elegant but ultimately misleading abstraction? This workshop focuses on the role of mathematics and exact prediction in the evolutionary sciences, with the Price Equation as the center of the debate. For the full program and descriptions, please see: <https://www.darwinism.network/peworkshop>

[KLI Colloquium Series](#)

The 2023 spring-summer KLI Colloquium series will resume in March, with a great line-up of speakers from the KLI and beyond. Save the dates for talks by Isabella Sarto-Jackson, Luis Alejandro Villanueva Hernandez, Sonia Sultan, Leo Bich, Kevin Lala, Benedikt Hallgrimsson, and Marco Treven. The KLI working group “Evolutionary Theories for Social-Ecological Change” will also present their first results.

Titles and registration links to the hybrid events will soon be updated on their event calendar: https://kli.ac.at/en/events/event_calendar



Conferences & Workshops (cont.)

[Workshop on Major Transitions in Biology and Culture, Bristol](#)

Since its original conception in the mid-90s (Maynard Smith and Szathmary 1995) the idea of major evolutionary transitions has undergone evolutionary trajectories of its own. While the original formulation targeted a conjunction of events where new units of organisation evolve out of pre-existing ones, and events and where new modes of transferring information across generations evolve (Szathmary 2015), later formulations have tended to be more coherent in explanatory targets as well as explanatory models, at the cost of scope. Particularly representative here is the derived concept of Evolutionary Transitions in Individuality, which focuses on the evolution of new biological individuals from pre-existing ones (Michod and Herron 2006, Bourke 2011, Calcott and Sterelny 2011, Birch 2017, Okasha 2022) and the closely-related debate around what biological individuality is (Clarke 2010, Pradeu 2016). This remains a lively area of debate within theoretical biology and philosophy of biology, and it continues to inspire similar research outside the realm of biology.

The purpose of this workshop is to stimulate discussion on the topic of major transitions in cultural evolutionary theory (Jablonka and Lamb 2006, Hodgson and Knudsen 2010, Waring and Wood 2021). While the prospects of applying the major transitions framework seem promising, given increasing hierarchical complexity in sociocultural systems over the course of their evolutionary histories, the approach faces challenges. For instance, how should we understand the central concepts of major transitions in biology? How do (or can) these concepts apply in the case of sociocultural processes? What explanatory benefits does major transition thinking offer in biology, and do these benefits transfer when applied to culture? Our aim is to interrogate issues in major transitions thinking in biology, and assess the prospects of applying this thinking to sociocultural change.

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Conferences & Workshops (cont.)

The workshop takes place from Mon, 27 Mar 2023, 09:30 to Tue, 28 Mar 2023, 17:30 BST, at the Clifton Hill House, United Kingdom. To register, visit <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/workshop-major-transitions-in-biology-and-culture-tickets-542668816037>

Please email Charlotte (cw1658@bristol.ac.uk) with any dietary or access requirements.

Announcements

Two Philosophers Awarded AAAS Fellows

As announced on Daily Nous by Justin Weinberg here: <https://dailynous.com/2023/02/21/two-philosophers-among-new-american-association-for-the-advancement-of-science-fellows/>

Two philosophers have been included in the 2022 class of American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Fellows. They are: Alan C. Love of the University of Minnesota, and Roberta L. Millstein of the University of California, Davis. The new class of fellows was announced last month. Most of the 505 new fellows work in the sciences. The AAAS says that its fellows “are a distinguished cadre of scientists, engineers and innovators who have been recognized for their achievements across disciplines, from research, teaching, and technology, to administration in academia, industry and government, to excellence in communicating and interpreting science to the public.”

The mission of the AAAS is to “advance science, engineering, and innovation throughout the world for the benefit of all.” You can learn more about the organization [here](#) and see the full list of new fellows [here](#).

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Announcements (cont.)

Greene and Callebaut Prizes: Calls for Submissions

2023 Marjorie Grene Prize

The International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology (ISHPSSB) seeks submissions for the 2023 Marjorie Grene Prize.

This prize is intended to advance the careers of younger scholars, and will be awarded to the best manuscript based on a presentation at one of the two previous ISHPSSB meetings (CHSL or Oslo) by someone who was, at the time of presentation, a graduate student.

It is very appropriate for ISHPSSB to name this prize in Marjorie Grene's honor. Not only does her work in the history and philosophy of biology exemplify the strong spirit of interdisciplinary work fundamental to ISHPSSB, but she played a central role in bringing together diverse scholars of biology even before the formation of the Society. She was a valued mentor to many members of the Society and a long-standing inspiration to all.

The award will consist of a certificate and an award of US\$500, as well as a permanent record of the award on a plaque which circulates every two years to the current winner(s). Submissions may be simultaneously considered for the Grene and the Callebaut prizes, but a paper may not be awarded both prizes.

Submissions should be in the form of a paper prepared for submission to a professional journal, with an indication of the journal in question. An electronic copy (in Microsoft Word or PDF format), together with the required cover sheet, should be emailed as one document to co-Chair of the Grene Prize Committee Mael Lemoine, no later than 1 April 2023 (mael.lemoine@u-bordeaux.fr). The winning paper will be announced at the 2023 ISHPSSB conference. The committee reserves the right not to make an award, or to split the award.

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Announcements (cont.)

Grene and Callebaut Prizes: Calls for Submissions

2023 Werner Callebaut Prize

The International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology (ISHPSSB) seeks submissions for the 2023 Werner Callebaut Prize.

This prize is intended to advance the careers of younger scholars working at the intersection of the fields represented by ISH, and will be awarded to the best manuscript utilizing an interdisciplinary approach based on a presentation at one of the two previous ISHPSSB meetings (CHSL or Oslo) by someone who was, at the time of presentation, a graduate student.

The prize is named in honor of Werner Callebaut, whose untimely death in 2014 inflicted a serious blow to the philosophy of biology community worldwide. Werner's mentorship and guidance benefited the intellectual and personal development of countless philosophers and scientists over the last twenty years, and contributed greatly to making sure that philosophical and scientific work evolve in constructive dialogue and reciprocal respect. His work reached creatively across fields of relevance to the philosophical understanding of biology (comprising areas as far removed as economics, evolutionary biology, history, sociology and cognitive science), as well as across national cultures, languages and traditions (most notably the 'continental-analytic' divide among philosophers of science), hence making a prize focused on interdisciplinarity most appropriate, especially for ISHSSPB which explicitly encourages interdisciplinary approaches.

The award will consist of a certificate and an award of US\$500, as well as a permanent record of the award on a plaque which circulates every two years to the current winners. Submissions may be simultaneously considered for the Grene and the Callebaut prizes, but a paper may not be awarded both prizes.

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Announcements (cont.)

Submissions should be in the form of a paper prepared for submission to a professional journal, with an indication of the journal in question, along with a brief statement detailing the interdisciplinarity represented in the manuscript. An electronic copy (in Microsoft Word or PDF format), together with the required cover sheet, should be emailed as one document to co-Chair of the Callebaut Prize Committee Mael Lemoine, no later than 1 April 2023 (mael.lemoine@u-bordeaux.fr). The winning paper will be announced at the 2023 ISHPSSB conference. The committee reserves the right not to make an award, or to split the award.

With thanks to the Konrad Lorenz Institute for Evolution and Cognition Research (KLI) for financial support for the Callebaut Prize.

Jim Griesemer and Maël Lemoine - Chairs of the Marjorie Grene and Werner Callebaut Prize Committee

Publications

Huneman, P. (2023). *Death: Perspectives from the Philosophy of Biology*. Palgrave Macmillan Cham. <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-14417-2>

Zach, M., Greslehner, G.P. (2023). Understanding immunity: an alternative framework beyond defense and strength. *Biology & Philosophy*, 38, 7. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10539-023-09893-2>

Looking ahead...

Phew! That was quite a lot to announce in such a short month. Hopefully you found something interesting in all of this, either for your own research or for your colleagues and/or students. Looking forward to hearing what's in store for the months to come - see you next month!

More news

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