



The Magazine

March 2023

Introduction

Hello **PiBM** network members!

We are happy to share lots of interesting announcements this month. With so many PhD and post-doc opportunities, it looks like a great time to be a student interested in pursuing Phil in Bio and Med. While these things likely come in waves, let's hope the tide stays high and the waves keep coming as interest in this kind of interdisciplinary work grows. Also, happy to announce some recent philosophical interventions into scientific debates, which further illustrate how philosophy can contribute to science. Enjoy!

Post-graduate Opportunities

[PhDs in Theoretical Biology at Francis Crick Institute](#)

James DiFrisco is still recruiting PhD students to work on theoretical biology in his new lab at the Francis Crick Institute (London):

<https://www.crick.ac.uk/careers-study/vacancies/2023-01-19-difrisco-lab-modularity-and-dynamics-in-the-genotype-phenotype-map>

If you know of any potentially suitable candidates, please feel free to forward them the above link or have them get in touch with James (james.difrisco@crick.ac.uk).

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Post-graduate Opportunities (cont.)

[Embedded Philosophy of Biology PhDs at UC Louvain](#)

Charles Pence and the Université catholique de Louvain just had a project funded to “embed” a philosophy PhD student (supervised by Charles) in a group of three developmental biology labs, looking at questions of gene regulation and protein regulation -- in short, looking at the ways in which we might “de-idealize” GRN models by adding data concerning protein stability. The thesis developed will thus be somewhere at the intersection of modeling, idealization, explanation, and genetics, networks, complex systems, etc. Charles hopes to be able to give the student some latitude, of course, in forming the topic following their interests.

If you know of a master’s student – e.g., one finishing this year who doesn’t have a position lined up yet, or even someone in their first year this year who would finish next year -- who has the kind of interdisciplinary skills (at least some familiarity in molecular biology, at the very least) such that they would profit from this kind of arrangement, please let Charles know, or feel free to directly forward this information to them and encourage them to get in touch with him (charles.pence@uclouvain.be).

For this position, French skills would be a plus for socializing locally, but is not a requirement as all four of their groups work in English.

[6-year postdoc at Johannes Kepler University of Linz](#)

The Institute of Philosophy and Scientific Method (ISPM) at Johannes Kepler University (JKU) Linz is seeking an enthusiastic philosopher of science to join their team. An interest in the role of science in society is a must, some knowledge of economics, political economy, a social science or medicine desirable. The position is full-time, fixed-term for six years (‘University Assistant with PhD’ is the official title). The teaching load is 4 hours per teaching week (which is roughly equivalent to 2:2).

The ability to teach a course in Ethics and AI is a plus but not essential. For more details, see: <https://philjobs.org/job/show/23217>



Post-graduate Opportunities (cont.)

[One PhD and one postdoc at the University of Oslo](#)

The [ERC-funded project “AssemblingLife”](#) will investigate the significance of self-assembly and self-organization processes in understanding and explaining living systems and aims to develop new ideas on life science explanation, genetic causation, explanatory competition/integration and the significance of scale. For this they are looking for one PhD student and one post-doc working in the philosophy of science. The deadline is May 15, 2023, and the preferred starting date is November 1, 2023.

Read about and apply to the positions here: [PhD fellowship in philosophy of science](#) And here: [Postdoctoral fellowship in philosophy of science](#).

[New postgraduate program in Oncohumanities in Italy](#)

Giovanni Boniolo would like to announce that the first Postgraduate Program in Oncohumanities (PPOH) has been launched. Please see this link for more details and share it widely: <https://www.eso.net/en/what%2dwe%2ddo/future%2devents/postgraduate+programme+in+oncohumanitiesfirst+cohort/3-6049-0->

Jobs

[Full professor in philosophy at Heidelberg University](#)

The Faculty of Engineering Sciences at Heidelberg University invites applications for a Full Professorship (W3) in Philosophy (f/m/d) with a focus on philosophy of (life) science and technology at the earliest convenience. This position is intended as a bridge between the faculties of philosophy and engineering sciences and it is part of the Institute for Molecular Systems Engineering and Advanced Materials.

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Jobs (cont.)

Successful candidates will have a strong and demonstrated research interest in issues concerning the relationship of technology and organisms and the constitution of (human) life. They will have interdisciplinary experience in the philosophical analysis of the development of technology and biotechnology or the life sciences, including neuroscience. Their prospective research should include questions in the areas of philosophy of science, anthropology or ethics. We expect a preparedness to cooperate in current and planned projects on topics such as synthetic biology and engineering of molecular systems at Heidelberg University.

Please submit your application in English with a CV including your complete research bibliography, teaching record, teaching and research statement in a single PDF to the Dean of Engineering Sciences, Prof. Dr. Guido Kanschat and to the Dean of the Philosophical Faculty, Prof. Dr. Katja Patzel-Mattern by email to applications-ing@uni-heidelberg.de . Applications received by April 17th, 2023, will receive full consideration. Feel free to use the above e-mail address for questions about this position.

CFPs

[European Journal of Neuroscience](#)

Markus Kunze, Igor Branchi, Isabella Sarto-Jackson, and Ann-Sophie Barwich are running a call for papers for a Special Issue on “The relevance of a philosophical toolkit to advance neuroscience” in the *European Journal of Neuroscience*. The deadline is November 30, 2023. Topics/themes and all other details can be found here: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/page/journal/14609568/homepage/call-for-papers/si-2023-000257>

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Upcoming Conferences & Workshops

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 events in April:

27 April: International Workshop - Values at sea: Science Studies meets Marine Biology

Across many disciplines, attention is increasingly focused on the sea. This is no surprise: it is a site of immense value, supporting and shaping the global biosphere, and is under considerable threat. Whilst ocean ecosystems are pushed to the brink, scholars now often talk of the blue humanities and oceanic turns, of blue economics and accelerations, and of ocean decades. These trends necessitate a similar refocusing towards the sea in the history, philosophy, and social studies of science, fields that are well placed to help understand and contextualise some of the changes occurring to marine systems. To facilitate the emergence of social studies of marine life, as well as the integration of such scholarship with biological and ecological research, this two-day seminar will bring together people engaged in and focused on interactions between scientists and the sea. For more details and to register please see: <https://www.exeter.ac.uk/news/events/details/index.php?event=12502>

28 April: Ocean Waves, Ocean Science, Ocean Media - Stefan Helmreich

How do oceanographers apprehend ocean waves? This presentation draws on anthropological work I undertook among wave scientists in the United States to argue that what oceanographers take ocean waves to be has been strongly imprinted by the techniques, technologies, and media — maritime, photographic, filmic, information theoretic — through which waves have come to be known... For more details and to register please see: <https://www.exeter.ac.uk/news/events/details/index.php?event=12706>



Upcoming Conferences & Workshops (cont.)

[PhillnBioMed Summer School - Deadline Extended!](#)

The [Phil In Bio Med 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 PhillnBioMed 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 has been extended to April 11th, 2023. The fees are €500 for Master students and PhD students, and €700 for postdocs. (The fees include lunch, coffee breaks and accommodation). A limited number of supporting grants will be available upon demand.

[Phil In Bio Med 4 - Cambridge](#)

The fourth Philosophy in Biology and Medicine (PhillnBioMed) Network Meeting will take place in-person at the University of Cambridge, U.K., on May 5-6, 2023. Confirmed speakers are: Neil Ferguson, Jonathan Fuller, Tim Lewens, Richard Watson, Jonathan Birch, Nicky Clayton. Information about the details of the conference will be made available soon on the PhillnBioMed Network website: <https://www.philinbiomed.org/event/fourth-philinbiomed-meeting/>

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Recent talks/workshops at Bordeaux

The video of Steven Frank's recent talk in Bordeaux's PhillnBioMed seminar series, "Robustness and complexity: how evolution builds precise traits from sloppy components", is now available on their website: <https://www.philinbiomed.org/event/steven-frank/>

Here is the full video of a recent workshop at Bordeaux on Constructive Neutral Evolution: <https://youtu.be/7us2ljCusmQ> (a topic which is also discussed in the Steve Frank talk). This hybrid workshop on Constructive Neutral Evolution, held at CNRS & University of Bordeaux, France, was organized by Thomas Pradeu and the PhillnBioMed network. The speakers were Tyler Brunet (Exeter, UK) Ford Doolittle (Dalhousie, Halifax, Canada) Kerry Samerotte (Arizona State University, USA) Jeremy Wideman (Arizona State University, USA) Anthony Poole (University of Auckland, New Zealand) Alessandro Torri (Paris, France). Please feel free to share this video with anyone who might be interested!

The Oncosphere workshop in Bordeaux on "reproducibility in cancer biology" that took place in January now has videos online for those interested: <https://oncosphere-nouvelle-aquitaine.fr/actualites/workshop-reproducibility-in-cancer-biology/>

Publications

From Cedric Brun:

Balci, F. et al. (& C. Brun) (2023). "A response to claims of emergent intelligence and sentience in a dish", *Neuron*, 111.5, 604-605. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.neuron.2023.02.009>

This article has a response of the authors (see on next page...).

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Publications (cont.)

Kagan, B.J., et al. (2023). “Scientific communication and the semantics of sentience”, *Neuron*, 111.5, 606-607. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.neuron.2023.02.008>

(For those interested, these publications are based on the following paper: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.neuron.2022.09.001> And have received further discussion by neuroscientists: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.neuron.2023.02.016>)

Pavani, M. et al. (& F. Gross) (2023). “Triap1 upregulation promotes escape from mitotic-slippage-induced G1 arrest”, *Cell Reports*, 42.3, 112215. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.celrep.2023.112215>

Carrieri, D., Peccatori, F.A., & Boniolo, G. (2023). “The Oncohumanities training programme: Fostering a deeper engagement and integration of oncology and humanities to tackle the pressing and complex challenges of cancer care.” *Tumori Journal*, Online first: <https://doi.org/10.1177/0300891623115867>

Looking ahead...

That is all to announce for what happened in March and what to look forward to in April. So great to see the exciting new opportunities for students and the various advances coming from workshops and publications.

Keep up the great PiBM work - see you next month!

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