



The Magazine

May 2023

Introduction

Hello **PiBM** network members!

We are slowly entering into the summer/winter months (depending on your geographical situation), which may mean exams for students and hopefully successful graduations. Either way, in this newsletter you can once again find many interesting opportunities for your current (post)grad students interested in PiBM research. There are even a few recent publications to keep everyone inspired and give you something to think about over the summer/winter.

Enjoy!

Post-graduate Opportunities

[Philosophy of biology PhD in Pence Lab \(Belgium\)](#)

The UCLouvain ARC (Actions de recherche concertées) project Epistemodevo is hiring a funded PhD fellow in the philosophy of biology (more precisely, the philosophy of developmental biology). The fellowship will last four years, and will involve the candidate working with Charles Pence as supervisor, as well as being embedded in the labs of three practicing developmental biologists: René Rezsöházy, Françoise Gofflot, and Frédéric Lemaigre.

There is a (rolling) deadline of May 31. For more details, visit the website <https://pencelab.be/people/2023-epistemodevo-phd/> or contact Charles at charles@charlespence.net.

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Post-graduate Opportunities (cont.)

[PhD on Alzheimer's \(Bordeaux\)](#)

Maël Lemoine (ImmunoConcept) is hiring a PhD student to work on the human specificity of Alzheimer's Disease in an evolutionary framework. It is a strong interdisciplinary collaboration with neurologist Vincent Planche (IMN) and philosopher of paleoanthropology Mathilde Lequin (PACEA). The candidate can be a philosopher, a neurobiologist or a bioinformatician. The position is based at the University of Bordeaux, right in the center of the PhilInBioMed network.

The project description is here: <https://www.philinbiomed.org/job/phd-on-alzheimers-disease/>

Candidates should contact Maël Lemoine (mael.lemoine@u-bordeaux.fr) as soon as possible, and before June 15th.

[Post-doc in Philosophy of Biology \(Lyon\)](#)

The Cancer Research Center of Lyon and Lyon 3 University are announcing a post-doctoral fellowship in philosophy of biology and medicine. The subject of the research project is: "From metabolism to the exposome: study of the epistemological bases of a disciplinary reconfiguration in the life sciences".

The project is a continuation of the EPIEXPO project (EPIst mologie critique de l'EXPOsome) directed by Elodie Giroux, and the METAPROGRAM project coordinated by Marc Billaud. The research will be part of the "science, health, knowledge" research team essentially made up of philosophers of science and a multidisciplinary team of researchers in sociology, geography, economics and health psychology of health.

The candidate must hold a PhD in philosophy of science. It is desirable that he/she has knowledge of metabolic biochemistry and possibly of basic oncology. Experience of interactions with scientists and working with groups will be appreciated, as will speaking French. (continued on next page...)



Post-graduate Opportunities (cont.)

Please send a letter of motivation, two articles in relation to the subject of the post-doctoral offer, a research project of three pages maximum, and a CV by **June 10 2023** at the latest to elodie.giroux@univ-lyon3.fr and marc.billaud@lyon.unicancer.fr. Please include two articles published by the applicant in relation to the subject of the post- doctoral offer.

Bordeaux & Marie Curie Postdocs

The Conceptual Biology & Medicine team at ImmunoConcept in Bordeaux would like to announce that it is still interested in hosting postdoctoral candidates through the Marie Sklodowska-Curie fellowship scheme, which is now accepting calls until September 13.

For more details about the fellowships, please see: <https://marie-sklodowska-curie-actions.ec.europa.eu/actions/postdoctoral-fellowships>

For more details about the team at Bordeaux, either visit their website (<https://immunoconcept.cnrs.fr/conceptual-biology-medicine/>), or contact anyone on the team with whom you would like to work or further discuss this post-doc opportunity: [Maël Lemoine](#), [Thomas Pradeu](#), [Fridolin Gross](#), [Jan-Pieter Konsman](#), or [Jonathan Sholl](#).

Postdoctoral Research Fellow / Research Fellow (Social Science - Environment), University of Sydney & Charles Perkins Centre

- Opportunity to contribute to an innovative interdisciplinary program of social science research based jointly at the Sydney Centre for Healthy Societies (Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences) and the Charles Perkins Centre, The University of Sydney
- Conduct critical social science research focused on global and local food systems, including issues such as food quality, food poverty, multispecies relations and the environmental impacts of food production, including political-economic dimensions therein. (continued on next page...)



Post-graduate Opportunities (cont.)

- Full-time fixed-term for 2 years with possibility of extension. Offering a base salary of \$100,717 (Level A) to \$134,403 (Level B) plus leave loading and generous employer's contribution to superannuation

The successful candidate will join a dynamic team of social scientists at the [Sydney Centre for Healthy Societies](#) and the [Charles Perkins Centre](#). The successful applicant will conduct high quality research, publish in high impact peer-reviewed journals, develop applications for external funding, and contribute to SCHS-CPC collaborations including:

- supporting the development of a critical social science of food systems and environmental challenges
- writing, leading and co-publishing academic papers with members of the team
- leading analysis of literature/data, and submission of co-authored journal articles
- contributing to the preparation and submission of applications for competitive research grants/fellowships
- taking responsibility, under the joint supervision of Prof Alex Broom and Prof David Raubenheimer, for the day-to-day logistics of carrying out research
- working with the Team to further the vision and objectives of the Sydney Centre for Healthy Societies and the Charles Perkins Centre.

Applications (including a cover letter, CV, and any additional supporting documentation) can be submitted here: https://usyd.wd3.myworkdayjobs.com/en-US/USYD_EXTERNAL_CAREER_SITE/details/Level-A-or-B---Sociology--Health--and-Sociology--Environment-Food-0106353-1?q=0106353.

For a confidential discussion about the role, or if you require reasonable adjustment or any documents in alternate formats, please contact Lena Jiang, Recruitment Operations by email at lena.jiang@sydney.edu.au and/or Alex Broom alex.broom@sydney.edu.au.



CFA's

Sixth Annual Meeting: Deep South Philosophy & Neuroscience Workgroup

Second call!

DATES: Thursday, September 28 through Saturday, September 30, 2023

LOCATION: Beachfront Hilton Pensacola Beach Hotel, Pensacola Beach, Florida

REGISTRATION: There is no registration fee.

CO-ORGANIZERS & CONTACTS: John Bickle (Mississippi State U. and U. Mississippi Medical Center) jbickle@philrel.msstate.edu ; Nedah Nemati (Presidential Scholar in Society and Neuroscience, Columbia U.) nnn2120@columbia.edu

ABSTRACT (maximum 750 words) DUE DATE: July 1, 2023

THEMES: 1) Evolution of the brain; how evolutionary theories inform ideas about cognition and behavior. 2) Varia: philosophy of neuroscience or neurophilosophy, broadly construed.

In addition to welcoming talks on all topics in philosophy of neuroscience or neurophilosophy, at this year's meeting we also aim to bring history and philosophy of biology, philosophy of mind, and neuroscience into closer conversation. To this end, we also invite abstract submissions for talks on the topic of brain evolution. Topics of interest include, but are not limited to: histories of brain evolution and cross-species comparisons; using evolutionary theory to develop tools to be used to study the brain (e.g. neuro- computational modeling); functional and structural homology of the brain; evolutionary theory as explanation in behavioral and cognitive neuroscience.

This workshop is open to historians, philosophers, and scientists working at all levels of investigation, and will continue our tradition of bringing junior and senior scholars together in conversation.

For more details, visit their website: <http://deepsouthphilneuro.com/deep-south-philosophy-neuroscience-the-gulf-vi-first-call-for-abstracts-save-the-dates/>



Upcoming Conferences & Workshops

Seminars of the ANR BioPsychAnimEx

As part of Antonine Nicoglou's ANR project, she and Caroline Angleraux are organizing seminars about the origins and uses of animal experiments in biological psychiatry. The seminars are in English.

The next session of the Seminar BioPsychAnimEx will be: June 16th - Bernard Calvino (Honorary university professor in neurophysiology and former member of the scientific council of the UPSA institute of pain in France, former colleague of Henri Laborit, discoverer of Chlorpromazine, the first antipsychotic molecule in use).

If you are interested in the seminar and wish to participate in their research group or include other people, please contact Antonine Nicoglou (antonine.nicoglou@univ-tours.fr) or Caroline Angleraux (caroline.angleraux@univ-tours.fr).

Explanation and Complexity in Biology and Psychology: Themes from the work of Robert C. Richardson

Save the Date! September 21-22, 2023, University of Cincinnati (Ohio, USA).

Robert "Bob" Richardson, who retired from the University of Cincinnati in spring 2022, is AAAS Fellow, Taft Professor, University Distinguished Research Professor, Fellow of the Graduate School, and two-time department Head of Philosophy. *Discovering Complexity*, co-authored by Bob and Bill Bechtel, is one of the most influential works of turn of the millennium Philosophy of Science. Bob and Bill changed the landscape in Philosophy of Science by introducing and defending a novel account of discovery and explanation in the sciences, especially the biological sciences. The new "mechanistic" model of scientific explanation has now had enormous impact across all areas of philosophy, and particularly those dealing with living things and the life sciences, such as philosophy of biology.

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Upcoming Conferences & Workshops (cont.)

... And the “new mechanism” has become the received view in some areas — particularly among neuroscientists and cognitive scientists, and philosophers of neuroscience. This conference brings together some of the foremost advocates and critics of “new mechanism” to celebrate Bob Richardson’s work by doing the kind of philosophy he showed us how to do.

Invited speakers include Bill Bechtel (UCSD), John Bickle (Mississippi State), Carl Craver (WashU), Cédric Brun (Bordeaux), Zoe Drayson (UC-Davis), Markus Eronen (Groningen), Jackie Sullivan (Western), and Kari Theurer (Trinity).

Detailed schedule and titles later in the summer. For more information contact thomas.polger@uc.edu.

Egenis Workshops

The Egenis workshops continue in June with a couple interesting events. For general details and registration information, see this page: <https://sociology.exeter.ac.uk/research/sts/egenis/activities/events/>

8-9 June - Past Material, Past Minds: Philosophy, Cognition & Archaeology

This workshop addresses methodological, theoretical and philosophical issues across cognitive archaeology and paleoanthropology. How are inferences drawn from material items to cognitive and social capacities? And from fossil and other specimens to demographic, behavioural and phylogenetic dynamics? What can knowing past minds tell us about the nature of cognition? How should cultural innovation and evolutionary novelties in the paleontological and archaeological records be treated? How should we understand the ontology of artefacts and specimens, and how does this relate to archaeological and paleoanthropological practice?

For more details and registration, please visit : <https://www.exeter.ac.uk/news/events/details/index.php?event=12936>

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Upcoming Conferences & Workshops (cont.)

26-27 June - Reconciling New Mechanism and Processualism (with Tyler Brunet)

Mechanism and processualism are two comparatively new philosophies of science. Both can claim especially good uptake among biologists, and philosophers of biology and medicine. However, since their introduction, they have been in conflict with one another. Taken separately, they have different ontological underpinnings, provide different descriptions of target phenomena, and even entail different things about what biological science is and how scientific discoveries are made. We think it is time to aim for some reconciliation.

For more details and registration, please visit : <https://www.exeter.ac.uk/news/events/details/index.php?event=12774>

PhilinBioMed Summer School – Bordeaux

Bordeaux's summer school in philosophy in biology and medicine takes place this month, from June 12-16. For this, 20 young scholars (PhD students and post-docs) from the fields of philosophy of science, the life sciences, and medicine will come together and learn to use interdisciplinary methods to address conceptual issues in scientific research.

Course leaders will be present to highlight practical examples of interdisciplinary partnerships from their career, and to advise and interact with participants throughout the week. The programme will also include different formats such as group work, 'speed dating', and individual discussions, designed to further interactions between participants and course leaders. The summer school will start with a conference by Elliott Sober (University of Wisconsin), laureate of the 2023 PhilinBioMed Award. Discussants are Kevin Lala (formerly Laland), Ford Doolittle, and Silvia De Monte.

For more details, visit: <https://www.philinbiomed.org/event/summer-school-philinbiomed-2023/>

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Announcements

There is a new interdisciplinary *Cambridge Elements in Public Engagement with Science* series that Melissa Jacquart and Angela Potochnik will edit.

Here are more details: <https://ucengagingscience.org/2023/02/07/new-book-series-elements-in-public-engagement-with-science/>

Publications

Thomas Pradeu, Bertrand Daignan-Fornier, Andrew Ewald, Pierre-Luc Germain, Samir Okasha, Anya Plutynski, Sébastien Benzekry, Marta Bertolaso, Mina Bissell, Joel S. Brown, Benjamin Chin-Yee, Ian Chin-Yee, Hans Clevers, Laurent Cagnet, Marie Darrason, Emmanuel Farge, Jean Feunteun, Jérôme Galon, Elodie Giroux, Sara Green, Fridolin Gross, Fanny Jaulin, Rob Knight, Ezio Laconi, Nicolas Larmonier, Carlo Maley, Alberto Mantovani, Violaine Moreau, Pierre Nassoy, Elena Rondeau, David Santamaria, Catherine M. Sawai, Andrei Seluanov, Gregory D. Sepich-Poore, Vanja Sisirak, Eric Solary, Sarah Yvonnet, Lucie Laplane. (2023). “Reuniting Philosophy and Science to Advance Cancer Research”, *Biological Reviews*. <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/brv.12971>

Abstract:

Cancers rely on multiple, heterogeneous processes at different scales, pertaining to many biomedical fields. Therefore, understanding cancer is necessarily an interdisciplinary task that requires placing specialised experimental and clinical research into a broader conceptual, theoretical, and methodological framework. Without such a framework, oncology will collect piecemeal results, with scant dialogue between the different scientific communities studying cancer. We argue that one important way forward in service of a more successful dialogue is through greater integration of applied sciences (experimental and clinical) with conceptual and theoretical approaches, informed by philosophical methods.

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Publications (cont.)

By way of illustration, we explore six central themes: (i) the role of mutations in cancer; (ii) the clonal evolution of cancer cells; (iii) the relationship between cancer and multicellularity; (iv) the tumour microenvironment; (v) the immune system; and (vi) stem cells. In each case, we examine open questions in the scientific literature through a philosophical methodology and show the benefit of such a synergy for the scientific and medical understanding of cancer.

van Dooren, et al. (K. Lynch). (2023). The ethics of intervening in animal behaviour for conservation. *Trends in Ecology & Evolution*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tree.2023.04.011>

- While ethical considerations are not typically part of doing philosophy in science, this paper is part of a scientific tradition in conservation ecology that uses ethical tools to help inform scientific interventions.

Méthot, P-O. (ed.). *Philosophy, History and Biology: Essays in Honour of Jean Gayon*. Springer. <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-28157-0>

- This book features contributions by philosophers and scientists and shows Gayon's ability to intervene into scientific debates.

Wakefield J. C. (2023). The promise of evolutionary psychiatry. *World psychiatry: the official journal of the World Psychiatric Association (WPA)*, 22(2), 173–174. <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/wps.21070>

Events in the World of PiBM

Past event at Bordeaux

On May 24, Uri Alon (Weizmann Institute of Science, Israel) gave a talk at Bordeaux entitled: "Simplifying inflammation and fibrosis". Uri is a Professor in the Department of Molecular Cell Biology, Weizmann Institute, Israel.

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Events in the World of PiBM (cont.)

Uri's lab studies biological circuits using a combined experimental and theoretical approach, aiming to uncover general underlying principles that govern their functioning and evolution.

Talk abstract: "Fibrosis -excess scarring- is a condition that cuts across medicine, causes many diseases, and has no cure. It is a complex process with many cell types and molecules. We will show how a minimal mathematical model can form concepts that explain the basic features of fibrosis. These concepts led to experiments that provide new drug candidates that reduce fibrosis in mice for heart attacks and liver fibrosis. No knowledge of either fibrosis or math is needed to understand this talk."

A video of the talk can be found here: <https://www.philinbiomed.org/event/uri-alon/>

Looking ahead...

These various opportunities, announcements, publications etc., help to illustrate the diversity and vibrancy of the PiBM community, while leaving the door open for further growth.

Thanks again for your excellent contributions!

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