



The Magazine

September 2023

Introduction

Hello PiBM network members!

After a few months, we are back from radio silence to bring you updates from the PiBM world. Hopefully you have all enjoyed your respective summers/winters and are coming into the new semester refreshed. As there was not much activity over these past months, this newsletter largely reflects recent and upcoming events. But fear not, there is still much to be excited about and much word to be spread - jobs, workshops, publications, and more.

Enjoy!

Post-graduate Opportunities

[Two-year Postdoc on Philosophy of Evolution – Bristol](#)

Samir Okasha is advertising a 2-year research associate (postdoctoral fellowship) at the Department of Philosophy, University of Bristol, to work on his Representing Evolution project.

The position is part of the ERC-funded «Representing Evolution» research project, directed by Samir Okasha. Further details about the project are here: <https://representingevolution.xyz/> The successful applicant will pursue a project of research that falls broadly within the scope of the project. Further details about the position are here: <https://www.bristol.ac.uk/jobs/find/details/?jobId=323455&jobTitle=Research%20Associate>

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Post-graduate Opportunities (cont.)

Suitably qualified applicants interested in philosophical issues to do with evolution are encouraged to apply. Having a PhD is necessary before taking up the post.

For informal discussion of this position, please contact Samir.Okasha@bristol.ac.uk Please forward this advert to anyone you know who may be interested.

[Post-Doctoral Research Officer in Episodic Memory \(Philosophy of Artificial Intelligence & Cognitive Science\) – London School of Economics](#)

LSE is recruiting a Research Officer in Philosophy of Artificial Intelligence / Cognitive Science, to be based in the Centre for Philosophy of Natural and Social Sciences (CPNSS). CPNSS is a research centre promoting research into philosophical, methodological and foundational questions concerning science.

The position is part of Dr Ali Boyle's UKRI-Funded project, "Episodic Memory: Uniquely Human?" (EMUH). This project draws on insights from philosophy, cognitive science and artificial intelligence to address two central questions: what is the function of episodic memory, and is it uniquely human? The position is tenable for one year. The successful applicant will begin in January 2024 or as soon as possible thereafter.

For more information about the EMUH project, please see: [Episodic Memory: Uniquely Human Project \(lse.ac.uk\)](#) For more job details, see: <https://philjobs.org/job/show/24546>

Jobs

[TWO Teaching Assistant Professors, History and Philosophy of Medicine, University of Pittsburgh, Department of History and Philosophy of Science](#)

The Department of History and Philosophy of Science at the University of Pittsburgh seeks candidate for two positions, which you can learn more about on the next page...

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Jobs

... These positions are Teaching Assistant Professors specializing in History and/or Philosophy of Medicine and are to begin in the 2024-2025 academic year. Teaching Assistant Professors are eligible for renewal and promotion (for more information please see <https://www.as.pitt.edu/faculty/governance/criteria-promotion-appointment-evaluation-and-reappointment-appointment-stream>).

To apply, please visit the following website and follow application instructions: https://cfopitt.taleo.net/careersection/pitt_faculty_external/jobdetail.ftl?job=23006863&tz=GMT-04%3A00&tzname=America%2FNew_York
Applications received by January 15, 2024 will receive full consideration.

[Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy, Boston University](#)

The Department of Philosophy at Boston University invites applications for a tenure track faculty position at the rank of Assistant Professor, with AOS: Philosophy of Science and AOC Applied Ethics preferred. <https://philjobs.org/job/show/24278>

Ph.D. prior to appointment is expected and salary commensurate with qualifications. Open to all areas of Philosophy of Science. We particularly welcome candidates whose research engages other areas of philosophy and actively engages with scientific practice; we welcome candidates who are able to build interdisciplinary bridges to other relevant departments across the university. Candidate will have opportunity to contribute to BU's Center for Philosophy & History of Science. Teaching at both undergraduate and graduate levels; 2/2 load, semester-system.

A cover letter and complete dossier consisting of a writing sample, three letters of recommendation (and no more than five), CV, research statement, teaching dossier, and diversity statement (about how your teaching and research would further [Boston University's commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion](#)) should be sent to <https://academicjobsonline.org/ajo/jobs/25667>.

Address queries to Chair, Philosophy Search Committee. To be assured of full consideration, the final application should be received by November 1st, 2023.



Causality in the Sciences Conference - Johannes Kepler University (Linz)

The [Causality in the Sciences](#) conference series is back! We bring together philosophers and scientists to explore various aspects of causality. This 15th conference in the series will focus on the relationship between epidemiology and causality. The conference will be held at the Johannes Kepler University (JKU) in Linz, Austria, May 2-4, 2024. More information [on this website](#).

The conference focuses on causality in the science of epidemiology and the methods needed to assess public health claims. The conference aims to bring together scholars from multiple disciplines, including (but not limited to) epidemiology, public health, statistics, and philosophy. Papers addressing issues concerning the epistemology, semantics and metaphysics of causality in epidemiology are welcomed. We offer some suggested topics of interest but encourage submission of abstracts on all related topics, which include:

- What counts as evidence for causal claims in epidemiology?
- What is the role of experiments and simulations in causal inferences in epidemiology?
- How do or should new developments in methods of causal inference play a role in epidemiology?
- Is there a hierarchy of evidence in epidemiology? Is it defensible?
- What is the role of evidence-based medicine in causal inferences in epidemiology?
- What characterises the notion of causation in epidemiology?
- Are there differences in the notions that are explicitly and implicitly assumed in the methods employed?

Abstracts should be no more than 400 words (including references, if needed) and should be submitted via Microsoft CMT: <https://cmt3.research.microsoft.com/EpiCause2024> Abstracts having more than one author must have at least one of the authors registered for presentation. If an author's abstract is accepted, the author should send a biographical note (of max. 150 words) to epicause@jku.at.



Upcoming Conferences & Workshops

[Philosophy of Medicine for the 21st century: New thinking about health and disease - Sydney](#)

Tuesday 24 – Thursday 26 October 2023, Charles Perkins Centre, Sydney

Marking the conclusion of Professor [Paul Griffith's](#) ARC Laureate Fellowship, Philosophy of Medicine for the 21st Century, this conference showcases research on the impact of advances in biology and biomedicine on our understanding of the phenomena of health and disease and of the aims of medicine.

This conference brings together leading philosophers from across the globe and researchers from the Charles Perkins Centre to discuss different perspectives on the philosophy of medicine and take us through a thought provoking journey. Some of these exciting topics include: evolution, ecology, and nutrition ; functions, health, wellbeing ; pregnancy and motherhood ; a new philosophy of medicine ; new perspectives on health ; and causes, genes, and biases.

Please [download the program](#) for a full list of speakers and to read the abstracts.

[Upcoming PiBM Seminar in Bordeaux](#)

Alan Love (Minnesota) and Gunter Wagner (Yale) (Virtual) will give a talk entitled: “The Hierarchical Basis of Serial Homology and Evolutionary Novelty”.

Talk abstract: Given the pervasiveness of gene sharing in evolution and the extent of homology across the tree of life, why is everything not homologous with everything else? The continuity and overlapping genetic contributions to diverse traits across lineages seem to imply that no discrete determination of homology is possible. Although some argue that the widespread overlap in parts and processes should be acknowledged as “partial” homology, this threatens a broad base of presumed comparative morphological knowledge accepted by most biologists. Following a long scientific tradition, we advocate a strategy of “theoretical articulation” that introduces further distinctions to existing concepts to produce increased contrastive resolution among the labels used to represent biological phenomena.

(cont. on next page...)



Upcoming Conferences & Workshops (cont.)

We pursue this strategy by drawing on successful patterns of reasoning from serial homology at the level of gene sequences to generate an enriched characterization of serial homology as a hierarchical, phylogenetic concept. Specifically, we propose that the concept of serial homology should be applied primarily to repeated but developmentally individualized body parts, such as cell types, differentiated body segments, or epidermal appendages. For these characters, a phylogenetic history can be reconstructed, similar to families of paralogous genes, endowing the notion of serial homology with a hierarchical, phylogenetic interpretation. On this basis, we propose a five-fold theoretical classification that permits a more fine-grained mapping of diverse trait-types. This facilitates answering the question of why everything is not homologous with everything else, as well as how novelty is possible given that any new character possesses evolutionary precursors.

The talk will happen on October 18 from 17:00-18:30. Please contact Thomas Pradeu if you'd like to join: thomas.pradeu@u-bordeaux.fr.

[Egenis Seminars and Workshops](#)

The Egenis Seminar Series for the Fall has now started, with weekly seminars on Monday 3:30-5 pm British time. Everyone is warmly welcome to attend online: <https://sociology.exeter.ac.uk/research/sts/egenis/activities/events/>

Egenis Workshop, 20 October 2023, “Workshop: Interdisciplinary perspectives on Cultures of Changes around Non-Animal Methods (NAMS) in the Biomedical Sciences” – all info and registration details here, online participation is possible: <https://www.exeter.ac.uk/events/details/index.php?event=13108>

Joint workshop “Philosophy of AI and Digital Infrastructures” Egenis Centre for the Study of Life Sciences, Exeter & the Ethics in IT (EIT) research group, Hamburg. University of Exeter, 6-7 November 2023, - all info and registration details here, online participation is possible and welcome: <https://www.exeter.ac.uk/events/details/index.php?event=13209>



Publications

Agathe du Crest, Martina Valković, André Ariew, Hugh Desmond, Philippe Huneman, Thomas A. C. Reydon. (2023). *Evolutionary Thinking Across Disciplines: Problems and Perspectives in Generalized Darwinism*. Springer Cham. <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-33358-3>

Gilbert, S. F. (2023). Shells, gills, and gonads: On the remarkable persistence of oysters in the Chesapeake Bay. *Historical Studies in the Natural Sciences* 53: 221 - 241.

Zheng, Q. & Daskalov, A. (2023). Microbial gasdermins: More than a billion years of pyroptotic-like cell death. *Seminars in Immunology*, Volume 69, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.smim.2023.101813>.

Reports from recent PiBM events

PhilinBioMed Summer School – Bordeaux

On September 11, Nicole King gave a talk in the PhilInBioMed Seminar Series at Bordeaux with the truly exceptional title: “Why are choanoflagellates so rarely ‘in the mood’” (on the regulation and evolution of mating). The video is available online: <https://www.philinbiomed.org/event/nicole-king/>

Looking ahead...

Well, that’s all for now. Hopefully as the semesters are starting up again after vacations, the PiBM news will keep rolling in. We look forward to hearing from you and spreading the good PiBM word.

More news

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