



PiBM Newsletter

May 2024

Introduction

Hello PiBM network members!

As we approach the end of our respective semesters, the fascinating events and announcements continue. This month, the academic opportunities are high on the list to check out if you, or your students, are interested. We also have a strong list of recent publications from both well-known philosophers and those newly minted to the field. It's a shorter offering this month, so let's dive in!

Enjoy!

MAs, PhDs, Fellowships

[Master in Statistics, Data Intelligence, and the Foundations of the Sciences](#)

The Center for Philosophy, Science, and Policy (CPSP) at the Marche Polytechnic University invites applications for the Master in “Statistics, Data Intelligence, and the Foundations of the Sciences”.

The Master aims to fill a gap in the Data Science and STEM fields by integrating theoretical tools and empirical methods for an educated approach to data analysis, scientific experimentation, use of simulation tools in scientific inference and forecasting, as well as evaluation of evidence for policy purposes. The uniqueness of the Master's training offer is linked to three aspects ... (cont. on next page)

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MAs, PhDs, Fellowships (cont.)

1. The integration of courses on advanced data analysis and inferential techniques (machine learning, deep learning, AI), as well as tutorials on some of the most widespread data processing tools (Python, STATA, R, Matlab), with courses dedicated to the foundations of the scientific method, epistemology, and philosophy of science. A particular focus is directed towards the theoretical foundations of the scientific methods.
2. Emphasis on the distinction between pure “truth-conducive” aims and strategic goals at play in scientific practice. Formal analysis of strategic interactions in the scientific ecosystem as well as political and economic analysis of science in society. Identification of the various scientific sub-systems (scientific, governmental, socio-economic institutions and society at large) and their joint work within broader socio-economic structures.
3. Policy-making and the role of scientific evidence in decision-making, both personal and collective, with particular attention to the debate on the so-called “Evidence-based policy” and the related political and civil implications.

The Master is aimed at students and scholars from both the human sciences and STEM disciplines, but also at professionals who want to enrich their skills in the field of data analysis, science epistemology, and evidence-based policy.

The master is fully in English and takes one year to complete, particularly from September 2024 to June 2025. The application is now open and possible till June 27, 2024. The program is available at: <https://cpsp.univpm.it/master-sdifs>.

For inquiries about and assistance in the application procedure and other details please contact: michalpsikorski@gmail.com

[Call for Four Writing-Up Fellows in Morphometrics in Evolutionary or Developmental Biology](#)

(details on next page...)



MAAs, PhDs, Fellowships (cont.)

The Konrad Lorenz Institute for Evolution and Cognition Research (KLI) in Klosterneuburg, Austria, is an international center for advanced studies in the life sciences, with a focus on conceptual, philosophical, historical, and mathematical approaches in evolutionary biology and biomedicine. Embedded in a vibrant research community in the Vienna area, the KLI typically hosts about 20 fellows, visiting scholars, faculty, and students.

The KLI announces up to four Writing-Up Fellowships for students who are in the late stage of their PhD project involving geometric morphometrics, biological image analysis, or computational anatomy to address questions in evolutionary and developmental biology or biomedicine. Candidates are expected to have finished their data collection phase so that they can focus on analysis, conceptual integration, and writing up of their PhD project during the fellowship. At the KLI, the fellows will be advised by Barbara Fischer and Philipp Mitteroecker. The duration of the fellowship is six months, starting either in spring or in fall 2025.

The gross stipend is EUR 2,550.- monthly (before tax and social insurance).

https://www.kli.ac.at/content/en/the_kli/open_calls

[Call for Four Writing-Up Fellows in Evolutionary Medicine](#)

The KLI announces up to four Writing-Up Fellowships for students who are in the late stage of a PhD project addressing topics in evolutionary medicine. Research approaches can involve conceptual, historical, and theoretical methods as well as data-driven, computational, or experimental work. The call is open to all medical topics, including evolutionary psychiatry. Candidates are expected to have finished their data collection phase so that they can focus on analysis, conceptual integration, and writing up of their PhD project during the fellowship. At the KLI, the writing up fellows will be advised by the staff of the institute. The duration of the fellowship is six months, starting either in spring or in fall 2025.

The gross stipend is EUR 2,550.- monthly (before tax and social insurance).

https://www.kli.ac.at/content/en/the_kli/open_calls



Academic Jobs

Group Leader in Philosophy of Biology or Theoretical Biology

The KLI seeks a group leader in the field of philosophy of biology or theoretical biology with a strong background in evolutionary biology, cognitive science, or evolutionary medicine. Candidates should have a PhD in philosophy, biology, anthropology or a related field and at least five years of postdoctoral experience in academic institutions.

We offer a long-term position and the possibility to build up a research group in the candidate's field of expertise as well as an inspiring work environment in a beautiful historical setting near Vienna, a city with very high living quality. We expect the successful candidate to contribute to the administration of the KLI, especially with regard to the selection and support of the fellows. The yearly gross salary (before tax and social insurance) is at least € 70,000, depending on the candidate's experience. **The starting date is as soon as possible and the call remains open until the position is filled.**

For application, please send a letter of motivation with a summary of research interests and plans, an academic curriculum vitae, and a list of publications to recruiting@kli.ac.at.

Conferences & CFAs

Recentering Neuroscience on Behavior, Summer School

- November 09-14, 2024, Erice, Sicily, ITALY
- Deadline for registration is 30 June.
- Link for further information: <https://centromajorana.it/neurobehavior2024>

Notwithstanding the huge progress in the molecular and cellular neuroscience fields, our understanding of the brain is still limited. There is a need for a conceptual shift from a brain-centered to a brain-body-environment inclusive approach. In this perspective, the role of behavior is central as it represents the interface between the whole organism and the environment, thus being the ultimate functional outcome in healthy and pathological conditions. (cont. on next page...)



Conferences & CFAs (cont.)

Such an approach has relevant theoretical implications for progressing the neuroscience field, in addition to holding the promise for novel potential therapeutic strategies for mental health. Within the School's framework, we will exploit an interdisciplinary approach, spanning from ethology to applied neuroscience, psychiatry and philosophy, to provide innovative thinking tools to advance our understanding of brain and behavior in a complex and dynamic perspective. This will be accomplished by harnessing theoretical models that transcend the boundaries between fields and disciplines, beyond the mainstream. Plenary talks by leaders in the field will be followed up by interactive sessions guided by both senior and junior discussants. Training in soft skills will complement more theoretical discussions to gain knowledge that can be implemented by each participant in its own research. The ultimate goal of this course is to provide the participants with innovative and critical tools to explore new avenues for our comprehension of the interplay between brain and behavior, in addition to addressing the current need for interdisciplinary research.



Ettore Majorana International School

RECENTERING NEUROSCIENCE ON BEHAVIOR: A BRAIN-BODY-ENVIRONMENT INTEGRATED APPROACH

Organizers:

Francesca Cirulli & Igor Branchi, Istituto Superiore di Sanità, Rome, Italy

Speakers:

Claudi Bockting, Amsterdam UMC, The Netherlands

Na Cai, Helmholtz Zentrum Munich, Germany

Iain Couzin, University of Konstanz, Germany

John Cryan, University College Cork, Ireland

Alejandro Fábregas Tejada, KU Leuven, Belgium

Gerd Kempermann, DZNE, Dresden, Germany

Ewelina Knapska, Nencki Institute, Warsaw, Poland

Joan Marsh, Editor in Chief, The Lancet Psychiatry

Brenda Penninx, Amsterdam UMC, The Netherlands

Isabella Sarto-Jackson, Konrad Lorenz Institute, Vienna, Austria

Carmen Sandi, EPFL, Lausanne, Switzerland

*Truth in science can be defined as the
working hypothesis best suited to open
the way to the next better one*

Konrad Lorenz

Apply by **Jun 30 2024**

<https://centromajorana.it/neurobehavior2024>

Scientific committee:

Chiara Musillo chiara.musillo@iss.it

Aurelia Viglione aurelia.viglione@iss.it

Erice, Sicily, Italy
9-14 November 2024



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Publications

Desmond, H., Ariew, A., Huneman, P., and Reydon, T. (2024). 'The Varieties of Darwinism: Explanation, Logic, and Worldview', *Quarterly Review of Biology*. <https://doi.org/10.1086/730667>

Pavlicev M, & Wagner GP. (2024). 'Reading the palimpsest of cell interactions: What questions may we ask of the data?' *iScience*. (5):109670. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.isci.2024.109670>

Okholm, S. (2024). 'Geroscience: just another name or is there more to it?'. *Biogerontology*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10522-024-10105-x>

Wakefield J. C. (2024). 'R. Spitzer and the depathologization of homosexuality: Some considerations on the 50th anniversary'. *World psychiatry : official journal of the World Psychiatric Association (WPA)*, 23(2), 285-286. <https://doi.org/10.1002/wps.21206>

Wakefield, J. C. (2024). 'Mental disorders as genuine medical disorders'. In T. Schramme & M. Walker (Eds.), *Handbook of the Philosophy of Medicine, Second Edition*. Dordrecht: Springer. https://link.springer.com/referenceworkentry/10.1007/978-94-017-8706-2_1-2

Recent & Upcoming PiBM Events

[Carl Craver on Philosophy in Neuropsychology at Bordeaux](#)

On Friday May 31st, [Carl Craver](#) (Washington University), an expert in philosophy of neuroscience, mechanisms, and philosophy of biology more generally, gave a talk at University of Bordeaux on: "Time and Memory: Philosophy in Neuropsychology". Carl has been the invited professor for 2024 in Bordeaux's Philosophy in Biology and Medicine MA program teaching the details of a forthcoming book on neuropsychology. The video for the talk will be released soon!

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Recent & Upcoming PiBM Events (cont.)

Upcoming Talk in PhilInBioMed Seminar Series

The next talk in the Bordeaux, PiBM seminar series will be given by [Stefan Linguist](#) (Associate Professor of Philosophy, University of Guelph, Canada). Stefan is a philosopher of biology with research interests in ecology, genomics, and evolution. He works on a wide range of projects often at the interface between these disciplines. Some of his previous work has focused on the nature/nurture distinction, looking for ways to transcend this false dichotomy. He has also worked on cultural evolution, looking at whether cultures of honour evolve in response to specific environmental variables. More recently, his research focuses on theoretical issues in genomics and ecology.

His talk is currently entitled: “Genome-level ecology, a novel approach to the functional analysis of junk DNA” and will take place on 19 June, at 17:00 CET.

For more details, please visit: <https://www.philinbiomed.org/event/stefan-linguist/>

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