



The Magazine

February 2022

Introduction

Hello everyone and welcome to February's edition of the *PhillnBioMed Newsletter*! We have quite a list of interesting job offers, conferences, exciting announcements and a growing list of publications. We hope some of these will give you inspiration or even open the door for new career opportunities.

New positions

The [University of Bristol](#) is seeking to hire two post-doctoral research associates, for three years, to work on the project «Representing Evolution», funded by an ERC Advanced Grant to Professor Samir Okasha. Further details are available [here](#).

[KU Leuven](#) is looking for a researcher experienced in the philosophy of biology, particularly evolutionary and/or developmental biology. The researcher will join the FWO-funded project, «Biological Trait Identity: Modularity, Levels, and Adaptation.» This is a full-time position with some teaching duties. Further details [here](#).

[University of Bordeaux](#), Associate Professor in Philosophy of Medicine or Philosophy of Biology, Deadline TBA. Further details [here](#).

The [CNRS & University of Bordeaux](#) are seeking to hire 2 postdoctoral researchers, funded by a Moore Foundation grant to Thomas Pradeu, CNRS Director of research (please see also short grant description in the 'Announcements' section below). The 2 subprojects are:

- o Subproject 1: How does the immune system see the microbiome?
- o Subproject 2: How does the microbiome promote or inhibit cancer development?

Please contact Thomas Pradeu (thomas.pradeu@u-bordeaux.fr) if you are interested. More details will be given in the next *PhillnBioMed* newsletter.

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PinS in the Spotlight

Please stay tuned for this series to start **next month!**

CFPs

The third **Philosophy in Biology and Medicine (PhillinBioMed) Network Meeting** will take place in-person in Pittsburgh on **November 13 and 14, 2022**. The event will immediately follow the conclusion of the Philosophy of Science Association Meeting in Pittsburgh (November 10-13, 2022). The program committee invites abstracts of 500 words from those wishing to present at the conference.

The deadline for abstract submissions is **22 April 2022**. [Submission link](#).

Next conferences/announcements:

The **4th annual workshop “Scientific Understanding and Representation (SURe)”** will take place at Fordham University on **April 21-23, 2022**. More details can be found [here](#).

The University of Bordeaux is holding a **conference on CRISPR and Translational Medicine** on **March 31 and April 1, 2022**. More details can be found [here](#).

Bordeaux Summer School - Philosophy in biology and medicine: June 7-10, 2022. This summer school is organized by the PhillinBioMed network and the University of Bordeaux, within the framework of the Bordeaux Summer Schools program. It is open to second year Master students, doctoral students and post-doctoral fellows from the fields of philosophy, life sciences, and medicine. Participants will learn to use interdisciplinary methods to address conceptual issues in scientific research. Course leaders will be present throughout the week providing examples of interdisciplinary research based on their own experience, as well as interacting with and advising participants on their projects. Course leaders include Angela Potochnik (Cincinnati), Elliott Sober (Wisconsin), Paul Griffiths (Sydney), Alan Love (Minnesota), along with local organizers. [The deadline is March 23, 2022](#). All details can be found [here](#).

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Announcing [the Dutch Distinguished Lecture Series in Philosophy and Neuroscience \(#DDLs\)](#). This is a national initiative in the Netherlands that aims to create a platform for local, national and international interdisciplinary collaboration between researchers working on issues related to the study of the brain. The aim of the initiative is to connect all the groups in the Netherlands which are doing the research in philosophy of/in neuroscience (broadly construed), and thus to create a platform for exchanges and collaborations among these groups

[Thomas Pradeu](#) received a [new research grant](#) (\$576,000; 2022-2025) from the Moore Foundation: New conceptual and theoretical pathways for studying and elucidating the process of symbiosis, with two main subprojects:

- 1) Development of a new theory regarding how an organism's immune system and its resident microbial communities sense and manage each other;
- 2) Development of a new theory regarding how an organism's tumors interact with its resident microbial communities, which represents a complex subset of interactions between the organism and the microorganisms present.

Publications

Linguist, S., Fullerton, B. (2021). "Transposon dynamics and the epigenetic switch hypothesis." *Theor Med Bioeth*, 42, 137–154, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11017-021-09548-x>.

Khalifa, K., Islam, F., Gamboa, J.P., Wilkenfeld, D. A., Kostic, D. (forthcoming). "Integrating Philosophy of Understanding with the Cognitive Sciences." *Frontiers in Systems Neuroscience*.

Kostic, D. (2021). "Topological Explanations, an Opinionated Appraisal." In Lawler, I., Shech, E. and Khalifa, K. (eds): *Scientific Understanding and Representation: Mathematical Modeling in the Life and Physical Sciences*. Routledge.

Kostic, D. and Khalifa, K. (2021). "The Directionality of Topological Explanations." *Synthese*, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11229-021-03414-y>.

Sepich-Poore GD, Guccione C, Laplane L, Pradeu T, Curtius K, Knight R. (2022). "Cancer's second genome: Microbial cancer diagnostics and redefining clonal evolution as a multispecies process." *BioEssays*.

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Food for thought

Paul Griffiths from the University of Sydney recently published this nice article in The Conversation about some challenges facing interdisciplinary research ([link](#)).

He raises some interesting questions, especially from an administrative perspective, but perhaps one of them could be interesting to consider in the context of PinS research: do we need to maintain a strong disciplinary boundary around 'philosophy' to do philosophy in science?

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