
Understanding Life:
New Perspectives from Philosophy and Biology

Program (update: 11/04/2016)¹

Thursday, May 26, 2016

Kuppelsaal, Hauptgebäude University of Bern

09:15 Welcome and Introduction

Defining life – how far can we get?

09:30 *Mark Bedau (Reed College, Portland OR)*

The Nature of the Question About the Nature of Life

10:40 Coffee break

11:00 *Sara Green (University of Copenhagen)*

Is Defining Life Pointless?

12:10 Lunch

Experiment and observation: A path to a better understanding of life?

14:00 *Marcel Weber (University of Geneva)*

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15:10 Coffee break

15:30 *Alvaro Moreno (University of Basque Country)*

Why We Should Worry About the Definition of Life

16:40 Break

17:00 *Olivier Poch (University of Bern)*

Searching for Life in the Solar System and Beyond

18:10 End of the afternoon session

19:15 Conference dinner

¹Each talk lasts 45 minutes and is followed by a discussion period of 25 minutes.

Friday, May 27, 2016

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Concepts for accounting for life

09:30 *Kepa Ruiz-Mirazo (University of Basque Country)*
Autonomy and Open-Ended Evolution: Epistemological Bases
for a Universal Biology (Part 2)

10:40 Coffee break

11:00 *Andrea Loettgers & Richard King (University of Bern)*
Understanding Life: From Aristotle's Heat to Contemporary
Energy

12:10 Lunch

Evolving Life: What history can tell us about life

13:30 *Carol Cleland (University of Colorado Boulder)*
Microbial Life on Earth: Tree or Forest?

14:40 Coffee break

15:00 *Maureen O'Malley (University of Bordeaux)*
Historical versus Experimental Approaches to the Origin of
Life

16:10 Break

16:30 *Andreas Wagner (University of Zurich)*
On the Origin of Innovations in Life's Evolution

17:40 Panel Discussion

18:30 End of the conference

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