

Again Method!

Many Methods One Biology?

This workshop aims at reinvigorating discussions at the interface between the history and the philosophy of science. To this end, it will focus on methods – a subject particularly amenable to fostering fruitful dialogue between the two fields. The biological sciences have witnessed a dramatic diversification of methods over the past 200 years. Some of these new methods have aimed at a comprehensive “unity” of biology, while others were intended to separate different branches from one another. Some made it to the top of sub-disciplinary hierarchies, while others remained the choice of underdogs. Methods have provided and continue to provide the foundation for all claims to knowledge and evidence. An investigation of past methods is therefore crucial to any historical reconstruction of everyday practices in science. The resulting dynamics provide rich material for studies in the history and philosophy of the biological sciences.



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International Workshop

Many Methods One Biology?

20 - 22 October 2016

Organised by

» Kärin Nickelsen
History of Science, LMU Munich



Research Focus
Biology of Genomes

Thursday, 20 October

20:30 Welcome Dinner: Sarovar, Indian Restaurant

Friday, 21 October

Welcome & Introduction

09:30-10:00

- » Kärin Nickelsen & Caterina Schürch
- » **Revisiting Methodology**

1st Session

Chair: Kärin Nickelsen

10:00-10:45

- » Raphael Scholl (University of Cambridge)
- » **Against What Method?**
Feyerabend Meets Biological Practice

10:45-11:15

Coffee Break

11:15-12:00

- » Robert Meunier (University of Kassel)
- » **Transferring Methods for Mapping Causal Influence from Phage to Fly: Seymour Benzer's Behavioral Genetics (1967-1977)**

12:00-13:00

Lunch Break

2nd Session

Chair: Mathias Grote

13:00-13:45

- » Heiner Fangerau (University of Düsseldorf)
- » **Accounting for Actions: On the Necessity of Visual Self-evidence in Medical Diagnostics**

13:45-14:30

- » Lara Keuck (Humboldt University of Berlin)
- » **Progress without Success? Narratives of Learning in Alzheimer's Disease Research**

14:30-15:00

Coffee Break

15:00-15:45

- » Ulrich Krohs (University of Munster)
- » **Kinetic Methodology through the Time Scales**

General Discussion

15:45-16:30

- » Christian Joas (LMU Munich)
- » **Comment**

16:30-17:00

Reception

Keynote

17:00-18:00

- » Jutta Schickore (Indiana University Bloomington)
- » **About Method**

18:30

Conference Dinner: Blue Nile, Ethiopian Specialities

Saturday, 22 October

3rd Session

Chair: Cora Stuhmann

9:30-10:15

- » David P. D. Munns (City University of New York)
- » **The Case of the Algotron; or Coping with Shit in Space**

10:15-11:00

- » Caterina Schürch (LMU Munich)
- » **Exact Methods for Messy Physiology and the Irreducibility of Biology**

11:00-11:30

Coffee Break

11:30-12:15

- » Ulrich Stegmann (University of Aberdeen)
- » **Tools for Testing Mechanistic Hypotheses**

12:15-13:15

Lunch Break

4th Session

Chair: Caterina Schürch

13:15-14:00

- » Ann-Sophie Barwich (Columbia University, New York)
- » **Whatever the Method? PCR and the Discovery of the Olfactory Receptors**

14:00-14:45

- » Jenny Bangham (MPIWG Berlin, University of Cambridge)
- » **From Blood Transfusion to Genetics: Infrastructures, Instruments and Methods for Making Human Variation**

14:45-15:15

Coffee Break

15:15-16:00

- » Kärin Nickelsen (LMU Munich)
- » **Methodology Revisited: Concluding Remarks**

Final Discussion

16:00-17:00

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19:00

Farewell Dinner: Eclipse, Israeli Cuisine