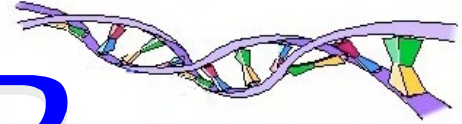


ISHPSSB



International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology

Biannual Newsletter

Volume 24, Number 1, Issue 44, Fall 2012 (published November 2012)

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President's Note

First, my apologies for the fact that no Spring newsletter was issued this year. This combined Spring/Fall newsletter contains the information that would usually appear in both issues. Despite this unwonted silence, there has been plenty of activity in 2012. Those who have visited the website recently will have seen that the content has been placed in a new, more up-to-date design. Thanks are due to our webmaster, Carlos Mariscal. The Publications Committee are actively exploring a new logo for the society. Some suggestions are reproduced below, and we invite feedback to the chair of the Publications Committee.

A successful off-year workshop was organized by a group of students from the Center for Biology and Society at Arizona

State University and the Institute for Systems Biology, Seattle, WA. You can read about the event below.

Preparations for the 2013 meeting have also gone forward, with a lot of work behind the scenes by the local organizing committee and program committee. The call for papers can be seen on the conference website, whose URL in the conference update below.

This month sees the HSS/PSA meetings in San Diego, at which Michael Ruse will launch his *Cambridge Encyclopedia of Darwin and Evolutionary Thought* and celebrate the ongoing publication of the Cambridge Introductions to the Philosophy of Biology. Michael and CUP have made an extraordinary contribution to publishing work of interest to

members of our society over the past seventeen years. The sixty-nine volumes of Cambridge Studies in Philosophy and Biology have maintained a consistently high standard, and made a very considerable contribution to our community: well worth celebrating.

Paul Griffiths

Update: 2013 ISHPSSB Biennial Meeting, Montpellier

Planning is well advanced for the 2013 meeting. The meeting venue has been relocated from the Centre Saint-Charles to the Supagro school, which is a modern campus with all facilities for conferences, and includes a student residence with 200 rooms, providing rooms at a 22€/night cost, so that the expected minimal cost per day

of accommodation & food will be around 50€. Montpellier being a city of Universities, two other equivalent student residencies are available around, able to host all our attendees. Nice hotels with a wide range of prices are to be found in the city center (with negotiated discounts), which is situated 20 minutes walk from the campus.

A conference website has been created at <http://www.ishpssb2013.org/> and is steadily being populated with information. The updated venue information will appear on the site very soon.

The call for papers can be viewed at: <http://ishpssb2013.sciencesconf.org/>. The deadline for submissions is 28th February 2013.

Organising Committee

Jean Gayon (IHPST/Paris I).
Chair.
Philippe Huneman (IHPST, Paris). Co-chair.
Paul Luu (Agropolis International)
Pascal Nouvel (Université Montpellier III)
Brigitte Cabantous (Agropolis International)
Bernard Hubert (Agropolis International)
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Antonine Nicoglou (IHPST, Paris)
Thomas Pradeu (Paris Sorbonne/IHPST)
Vincent de Victor (Isem UM2, Montpellier)

Call for papers ISHPSSB 2013

July 7-12, Montpellier, France

The meeting will take place from Sunday July 7th, 4pm to Friday July 12th, 12:30am.

As Montpellier has a rich history – it was one of the earliest medical universities in Europe – and has developed a very active research in ecology and biodiversity, we have included in the scientific program the three following plenary lectures:

Sunday 7th, 5pm: Maaïke van der Lugt (University of Paris Denis Diderot) will describe the role of universities such as Montpellier in the development of sciences in the Middle Ages.

Tuesday 9th, 4:30-6:30 pm: Isabelle Olivieri (University of Montpellier) and Michel Loreau (CNRS, Moulis) will talk about biodiversity and its management.

Calendar:

Submission deadline: February 28th, 2013

Notification from the Program Committee: March 31st, 2013

Six possible types of submissions

Please read carefully the following lines before deciding to choose one or the other option. Four of them existed in previous ISH meetings, and two (options 2 and 6) are new.

Option 1: Traditional session:

Each participant in a thematic session must submit her/his own abstract.

In addition, the organizer of the session (usually one of the participants in the session) must fill in the “Traditional session” form online.

Maximum length for each abstract: 250 words.

Total duration of a traditional session: 90 minutes.

Option 2: Interdisciplinary session:

We encourage the constitution of interdisciplinary sessions.

The procedure for submission is the same as for Option 1.

These sessions must correspond to a true interdisciplinary content, which will be underlined by the presence of two chairpersons, coming from different disciplines, and distinct from the lecturers, and the selection of two different themes in the list below.

Each participant in an interdisciplinary session must

submit her/his own abstract. In addition, the organizer of the session (usually one of the participants in the session) must fill in the "Interdisciplinary session" form online.

Maximum length for each abstract: 250 words.
Total duration of an interdisciplinary session: 90 minutes.

Option 3: Poster:

You submit an individual abstract for a poster session that will take place on Monday 8, from 4:30pm to 6:30pm. The ISHPSSB recommends this option that permits rich discussions.

Maximum length for a poster abstract: 250 words.

Option 4: Individual paper:

You submit an individual abstract for an oral presentation. The program committee will put individual papers together in order to constitute sessions of three or four participants, after consulting them. There will be a clear distinction between the self-organized sessions, and these "externally-organized" sessions. The spirit of ISH tells us that the result of self-organization is always superior to the result of an organizational process constrained from outside.

The total duration for each session will be 90 minutes.

Maximum length for paper abstract: 250 words. In the "Comments" section online, you will have to indicate one theme for your paper, chosen in the list below. This will help us to gather individual papers into sessions.

Option 5: Round Table:

You can also submit a proposal for a round table. The submission is made by the organizer (and not by each participant). The organizer of the round table must provide the title of the round table and an abstract. In addition, she or he must fill in the "Round Table" form online.

Maximum length for the abstract of a round table: 250 words.

Total duration of a round table: 90 minutes.

We have already preselected a certain number of issues and speakers for round tables, on themes that seemed to us to particularly deserve a discussion (see below). But we expect from you other, new and unexpected propositions!

Option 6: Dialogue:

Finally, we have decided to create a new type of sessions, named "Dialogue." Two speakers, having previously written or lectured on the same issue, but having reached different conclusions, will each be assigned 25 minutes to present their ideas. They will debate for 10

minutes, and discuss with the audience for 30 minutes (for a total duration of 90 minutes). We encourage the participants in a Dialogue to choose a "strong" moderator as a chairperson.

A Dialogue should be submitted by the organizer (who may but need not be one of the participants, and cannot be the moderator/chairperson). The organizer must give a title and an abstract. In addition, she or he must fill in the "Dialogue" form online.

Maximum length for the abstract of a dialogue: 250 words.

Total duration of a dialogue: 90 minutes.

We have already contacted some people for these Dialogues, to provide some examples of what we expect (see below). All additional propositions are welcome. An order of magnitude for the total number of these dialogues would be about 10, though this number is obviously flexible.

Rules

We have fixed quite rigid rules to avoid that some people participate in too many sessions. Thus, each participant has two tokens:

One allows her or him to give a talk in a session, or to participate in a Dialogue, or to present a poster. The second token allows her or him to participate in a Round

Table, or to be a chairperson, or to be a respondent or a commentator or to be the moderator of a Dialogue. No additional tokens will be provided!

(Thus, for example, a same person can give a talk in a session and participate in a Round Table, but cannot in addition chair a session.)

Submission

Please go to the ISHPSSB 2013 website: <http://www.ishpssb2013.org> and follow the instructions. As you will see, it is necessary to create an account before submitting.

If you need further information, do not hesitate to contact Thomas Pradeu and Michel Morange, co-chairs of the program committee: ishpssb2013@sciencesconf.org

Looking forward to seeing you all in Montpellier,

The Program Committee.

List of themes

Anthropology
Cellular and Molecular Biology: Historical and Philosophical Approaches
Development and Evo-devo
Ethical and bioethical issues
Evolutionary Biology: Origin, and early developments
Evolutionary Biology: The Modern Synthesis
Evolutionary Biology: The recent

challenges
Evolutionary Biology: Theoretical and conceptual issues (e.g. definition of Darwinian processes, levels of selection, etc.)
Evolutionary Biology: Cooperation, altruism, evolution and economy
Evolutionary Psychology
Functions and Mechanisms
Gender Studies
Historical, philosophical and sociological perspectives on:
Ecology
Epigenetics
Origins of life, minimal life
History of Genetics
Neurosciences and cognitive sciences: scientific, social, and philosophical issues
The "organism" problem
Public Health issues, and their social dimensions
Reductionism, antireductionism, emergence
The "species" problem
Systematics and classification
Systems Biology, Synthetic Biology and Genomics
Teaching Biology
Others

Dialogues: early propositions with provisional titles:

William Bechtel & Carl Craver:
On the explanatory role of mathematical models in biology
Garland Allen & Bruno Strasser:
Experimentalism and natural history in 20th century biology

Round Tables: early propositions with provisional titles:

Organizer: Sabina Leonelli (University of Exeter)
Title: Plant science: its place in biology
Organizer: Edna Suarez (University of Mexico)
Title: New sources in the historiography of science: post-colonial and cultural studies
Organizer: Elliott Sober
Title: About his recent book, Did Darwin write the Origin backwards? (2011)
Organizer: Manfred Laubichler (Arizona State University)
Title: American and European perspectives on the relations between History and Philosophy of science

ISHPSSB 2012 Off-Year Workshop: What's New about Systems Biology?

On August 16 - 17, an international group of scientists and historians and philosophers of science gathered at the Institute for Systems Biology, in Seattle, Washington, for the 2012 off-year workshop of the International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology, titled, "What's *New* about Systems Biology?" The workshop, organized by a joint committee of graduate students and post-docs from Arizona State University's Center for Biology and Society and the Institute for Systems Biology, addressed important but highly contested historical and philosophical issues surrounding the field of systems biology.

Over the course of the two-day workshop, four sessions covered issues ranging from the methodological foundations of systems biology to its historical roots and precursors. Presentations from both scientists and HPS scholars brought to light the diversity of opinions surrounding the origins of the field, and what it means to practice systems biology. For example, in the opening session, titled, “What’s New about Systems Biology?”, three presentations covered topics as diverse as the latest work on post-translational regulation, the differences between the systems and molecular approaches to cell division, and finally the anticipation of current systems thinking in the work of late-19th century biologist, Theodor Boveri. The compelling, yet diverse views of these participants generated spirited discussions among the audience about the nature of current systems biology and its “newness.” Everyone, however, agreed that investigating these themes through the alternative perspectives represented at the workshop was beneficial to all.

The first session set an exploratory tone that was maintained throughout the workshop. As participants got to know each other in discussion sections, coffee breaks, lunches, and a tour of the Institute for Systems Biology in which some

witnessed for the first time the machinery driving the science of systems biology, disciplinary boundaries quickly faded into a general excitement about the possibilities that approaching science from so many different perspectives could generate. As one participant noted, “It was great to be in a room with people that thought critically about the science they are doing and how it is changing (or the same) and how we can apply technology, tools, etc. in a more informative way. It was nice to think about science differently instead of having to just meet deadlines or get a result.”

With a participant list numbering over 60, including a substantial number from Seattle-area systems biology and biomedical research groups, this ISHPSSB Off-Year Workshop was a great reminder that when scientists, philosophers, historians, and social studies scholars of science get together, everyone benefits. Or, as one participant reflected, “One conversation I remember distinctly, reminded me that even in my own area of expertise there is still much I do not know. Sometimes it is good to be reminded of this.”

Kate MacCord and Lijing Jiang

Call for proposals to host the 2015 and 2017 meetings

While our French colleagues

are working hard to ensure a successful meeting in Montpellier in July 2013, the Site Selection Committee cordially invites ISHPSSB members elsewhere to propose potential sites for the July 2015 and — why not? — July 2017 Society meetings.

Following our tradition of alternating between continents, the 2015 meeting should normally be held in North America — Canada, Mexico, or the US. Proposers should bear in mind that the Society prefers to meet in places that are not only attractive (for many participants, the meeting is a welcome occasion to combine work with some well-deserved holidays), but offer convenient conference infrastructure and affordable housing. More detailed hosting guidelines are available from werner.callebaut@kli.ac.at.

It is, of course, impossible at this time to anticipate the repercussions the current economic crisis in Europe and elsewhere will have on members’ mobility in the years to come, but we will certainly take this issue into account when preparing our proposal for 2015 to the Members’ Meeting in Montpellier. Independently of this, we encourage proposals to host the 2017 meeting from all over the world but especially from South America, where very exciting things are going on in HPSSB right now.

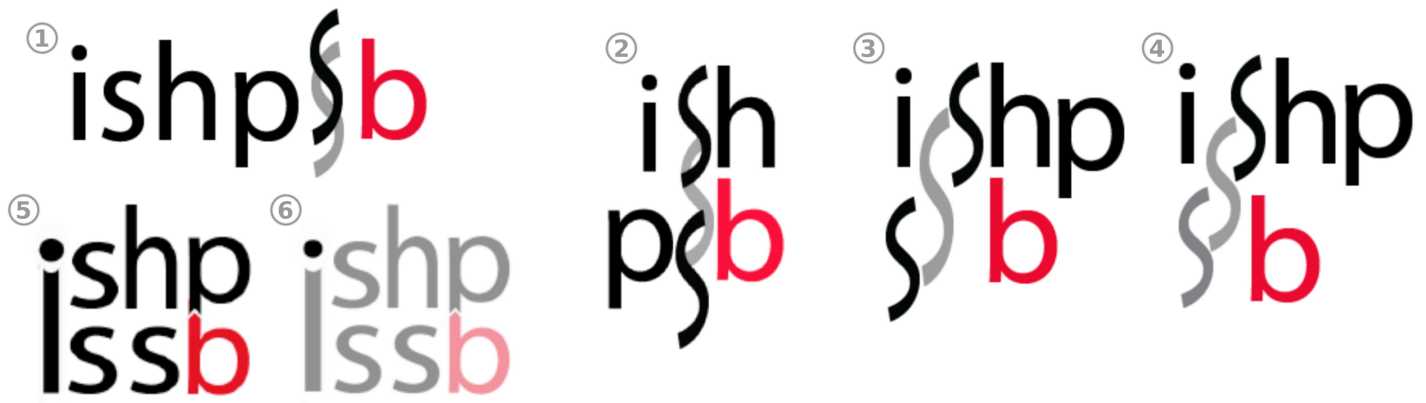


Figure 1: «The goal was a logo that includes the full acronym, but also uses text as a visual element in a way that makes some references to biology. In this case the form "S"s make is evocative of DNA certainly, but also other biological factors such as linkage, change, and cyclicity.» Andrew Yang

Another issue we would like to call your attention to is overlap with other meetings (if you are aware of such, please let me know) and, on the positive side, the possibility of having our meeting precede or follow another major event attended by a significant number of ISH members. We are somewhat flexible as far as dates are concerned.

As a former host, I can assure potential candidates that hosting a meeting the size of ISH is not only a lot of work, but also a uniquely rewarding experience for the hosting team!

Werner Callebaut (on behalf of the Site Selection Committee)

Call for submissions for 2013 Marjorie Grene Prize

ISHPSSB seeks submissions for the 2013 Marjorie Grene Prize. This prize is intended to

advance the careers of younger scholars, and will be awarded to the best manuscript based on a presentation at one of the two previous ISHPSSB meetings (Brisbane 2009 or Salt Lake City 2011) by someone who was, at the time of presentation, a graduate student.

It is very appropriate for ISHPSSB to name this prize in Marjorie Grene's honor. Not only did her work in the history and philosophy of biology exemplify the strong spirit of interdisciplinary work fundamental to ISHPSSB, but she also played a central role in bringing together diverse scholars of biology even before the formation of the Society. She was a valued mentor to many members of the Society and a long-standing inspiration to all.

The award will consist of a certificate and an award of

\$500.

Submissions should be in the form of a paper prepared for submission to a professional journal, with an indication of the journal in question and whether the paper is already in review. Submissions can be in the form of papers already accepted for publication. Electronic submissions, in Microsoft Word or PDF format, are preferred and must be emailed no later than March 1, 2013. Hardcopy submissions must include three complete copies of the paper and be mailed no later than March 1, 2013.

The winning entry will be announced by May 1, 2013.

Please submit papers to

Greg Radick,
G.M.Radick@leeds.ac.uk
School of Philosophy, Religion
and History of Science
University of Leeds

Leeds LS2 9JT, UK

Suggested new ISHPSSB logo designs

Andrew Yang (Figure 1) has kindly produced some suggestions for a new ISHPSSB logo. Members are invited to provide feedback (and other suggestions). Please contact the chair of the publications committee, Manfred Laublicher:
Manfred.Laubichler@asu.edu.

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Are you subscribed to the ISHPSSB Listserv <ISHPSB-L> ?

If not, you may have missed information posted for members which became outdated by the time this Newsletter went to print. Subscribe online by following these instructions

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with the following in the body of the message:

SUBSCRIBE ISHPSB-L Yourfirstname Yourlastname

Check for updates online: <http://www.ishpssb.org>

Have you renewed your membership?

ISHPSSB members typically renew their memberships when they register for the biennial meeting. Those who do not attend a meeting sometimes fail to renew. To renew your membership, go to:
<http://ishpssb.onefireplace.com>.

If you experience any difficulties, please contact Anya Plutynski at secretary@ishpssb.org

As a benefit, members receive a variety of journals at reduced rate, including ISIS and JHB.

If your membership has expired some time ago (approximately 6 months), you may be put in the "archives" of the membership database. In order to be removed from the archive, you must contact Anya Plutynski at secretary@ishpssb.org

Credits

This newsletter was edited by Anya Plutynski, Paul Griffiths, and David Suárez.