

CONTEMPORARY
DEBATES
IN PHILOSOPHY

CONTEMPORARY DEBATES IN
**PHILOSOPHY
OF BIOLOGY**

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AND ROBERT ARP

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Contemporary Debates In Philosophy Of Biology

Natalie Delimata



Contemporary Debates In Philosophy Of Biology:

Contemporary Debates in Philosophy of Biology Francisco J. Ayala, Robert Arp, 2009-12-07 This collection of specially commissioned essays puts top scholars head to head to debate the central issues in the lively and fast growing field of philosophy of biology Brings together original essays on ten of the most hotly debated questions in philosophy of biology Lively head to head debate format sharply defines the issues and paves the way for further discussion Includes coverage of the new and vital area of evolutionary developmental biology as well as the concept of a unified species the role of genes in selection the differences between micro and macro evolution and much more Each section features an introduction to the topic as well as suggestions for further reading Offers an accessible overview of this fast growing and dynamic field whilst also capturing the imagination of professional philosophers and biologists

Biological Autonomy Alvaro Moreno, Matteo Mossio, 2015-05-04 Since Darwin Biology has been framed on the idea of evolution by natural selection which has profoundly influenced the scientific and philosophical comprehension of biological phenomena and of our place in Nature This book argues that contemporary biology should progress towards and revolve around an even more fundamental idea that of autonomy Biological autonomy describes living organisms as organised systems which are able to self produce and self maintain as integrated entities to establish their own goals and norms and to promote the conditions of their existence through their interactions with the environment Topics covered in this book include organisation and biological emergence organisms agency levels of autonomy cognition and a look at the historical dimension of autonomy The current development of scientific investigations on autonomous organisation calls for a theoretical and philosophical analysis This can contribute to the elaboration of an original understanding of life including human life on Earth opening new perspectives and enabling fecund interactions with other existing theories and approaches This book takes up the challenge

Darwinian Creativity and Memetics Maria Kronfeldner, 2014-09-11 Maria Kronfeldner examines how Darwinism has been used to explain novelty and change in culture through the Darwinian approach to creativity and the theory of memes The first claims that creativity is based on a Darwinian process of blind variation and selection while the latter claims that culture is based on and explained by units memes that are similar to genes Both theories try to describe and explain mind and culture by applying Darwinism by way of analogies Kronfeldner shows that the analogies involved in these theories lead to claims that give either wrong or at least no new descriptions or explanations of the phenomena at issue Whereas the two approaches are usually defended or criticized on the basis that they are dangerous for our vision of ourselves this book takes a different perspective it questions the acuteness of these approaches Darwinian theory is not like a dangerous wolf hunting for our self image Far from it in the case of the two analogical applications addressed in this book Darwinian theory is shown to behave more like a disoriented sheep in wolf s clothing

On Biopolitics Marco Piasentier, 2020-07-07 In *On Biopolitics* Marco Piasentier discusses one of the most persistent questions in biopolitical theory the divide between nature and language and attempts to redraw the

conceptual map which has traditionally defined the permissible paths to address this question Taking his cue from Foucault's exhortation to think philologically and biologically Piasentier traverses the main theoretical and methodological frameworks which have informed the biopolitical debate on nature and language biology and politics Biopolitical theory becomes the center of gravity for an investigation encompassing diverse philosophical models from the Heideggerian linguistic turn to post Darwinian naturalism The divide between traditions is not proof of an impossible encounter but constitutes the site for a new conceptual topography Working in this interdisciplinary space Piasentier puts into question the command of language and the ends of nature two vestiges of a human all too human worldview that preclude the possibility of thinking philologically and biologically about biopolitics On Biopolitics An Inquiry into Nature and Language is essential reading for humanities and social sciences scholars with an interest in moving beyond debates about nature and language *The Wiley Blackwell Companion to Religion and Ecology* John Hart, 2017-03-24 In the face of the current environmental crisis which clearly has moral and spiritual dimensions members of all the world's faiths have come to recognize the critical importance of religion's relationship to ecology The Wiley Blackwell Companion to Religion and Ecology offers a comprehensive overview of the history and the latest developments in religious engagement with environmental issues throughout the world Newly commissioned essays from noted scholars of diverse faiths and scientific traditions present the most cutting edge thinking on religion's relationship to the environment Initial readings explore the ways traditional concepts of nature in Christianity Judaism Islam Buddhism and other religious traditions have been shaped by the environmental crisis Readings then address the changing nature of theology and religious thought in response to the challenges of protecting the environment Various conceptual issues and themes that transcend individual traditions climate change bio ethics social justice ecofeminism and more are then analyzed before a final section examines some of the immediate challenges we face in caring for the Earth while looking to the future of religious environmentalism Timely and thought provoking Companion to Religion and Ecology offers illuminating insights into the role of religion in the ongoing struggle to secure the future well being of our natural world With a foreword by Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I and an Afterword by John Cobb **The Species Problem** Igor Ya. Pavlinov, 2023-02-24 The general notion of species is one of the most fundamental in biology But an idea of species is also one of the most persistent unresolved obsessions of biologists philosophers and theoreticians This new book investigates the multifaceted problem species as a conceptual envelope of that notion Contemporary conceptualists and evolutionary epistemology allow for a fresh look by analyzing the framework of history viewed as changes ordered by changing philosophical scientific contexts In this analysis the species problem is characterized in a pluralistic non trivial manner in contrast to a more monistic accepted view Key Features Provides new insights into the persistent species problem Focuses on conceptual history and identifies pivotal landmarks in the history of the concept of species Argues for a scientific consistency of species pluralism Discusses the evolving species hood in the context of new essentialism Related Titles Wilkins

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Articulating Intersex: A Crisis at the Intersection of Scientific Facts and Social Ideals Natalie

Delimata,2019-09-26 This book explores the ethical dilemma clinicians may face when disclosing a diagnosis of atypical sex The moment of disclosure reveals an epistemic incompatibility between scientific fact and social meaning in relation to sex Attempting to assess the bio psychosocial implications of this dilemma highlights a complex historic antagonism between fact and meaning making satisfactory resolution of this dilemma difficult Drawing on David Hume WVO Quine and Michel Foucault the author presents an integrative model which views scientific fact and social meaning as codetermining threads in one fabric of knowledge From this epistemic perspective the ethical dilemma is understood as a tear in the fabric signifying a rupturing of ontological integrity To mend this tear and resolve the ethical dilemma three metaphysical perspectives are considered essentialism naturalism and emergentism The book s unique features include an exploration of the impact of diagnostic disclosure on people with atypical sex intersex a synthesis of the epistemic perspectives of social and natural science facilitating interdisciplinary collaboration a critical evaluation of three metaphysical perspectives on atypical sex intersex the application of Hume s epistemological and moral distinctions to contemporary biomedicine and bioethics The book s target audience includes academics students and professionals whose work intersects the natural and social sciences and individuals interested in the metaphysics epistemology and meta ethics of sex **Functions: From Organisms to**

Artefacts Jean Gayon,Armand de Ricqlès,Antoine C. Dussault,2023-07-25 This book originally published in French examines the philosophical debates on functions over the last forty years and proposes new ways of analysis Pervasive throughout the life sciences the concept of function has the air of an epistemological scandal ascribing a function to a biological structure or process amounts to suggesting that it is explained by its effects This book confronts the debates on function with the use of the notion in a wide range of disciplines such as biology psychology and medicine It also raises the question of whether this notion which is as old in the history of technology as it is in the life sciences has the same meaning in these two domains

Lamarckism and the Emergence of 'Scientific' Social Sciences in Nineteenth-Century Britain and France Snait B.

Gissis,2024-04-09 The book presents an original synthesizing framework on the relations between the biological and the social Within these relations the late nineteenth century emergence of social sciences aspiring to be constituted as autonomous as scientific disciplines is described analyzed and explained Through this framework the author points to conceptual and constructive commonalities conjoining significant founding figures Lamarck Spencer Hughlings Jackson Ribot Durkheim Freud who were not grouped nor analyzed in this manner before Thus the book offers a rather unique synthesis of the interactions of the social the mental and the evolutionary biological Spencerian Lamarckism and or Neo Lamarckism

crystallizing into novel fields It adds substantially to the understanding of the complexities of evolutionary debates during the last quarter of the nineteenth century It will attract the attention of a wide spectrum of specialists academics and postgraduates in European history of the nineteenth century history and philosophy of science and history of biology and of the social sciences including psychology Computational Phenotypes Sergio Balari,Guillermo Lorenzo González,2013 This is a book about language as a species typical trait of humans It argues that language is not so exceptional after all as according to the authors it is just the human version of a rather common and conservative organic system that they refer to as the Central Computational Complex

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