



Current Themes in Theoretical Biology

A Dutch Perspective

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Current Themes In Theoretical Biology

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Current Themes In Theoretical Biology:

Current Themes in Theoretical Biology Thomas A.C. Reydon, Lia Hemerik, 2005-12-05 The present volume originated in 2001 when we together with our publishing editors at then Kluwer Academic Publishers realized that the 50th volume of our journal *Acta Biotheoretica* would see the light. We felt that this milestone should not pass unnoticed and that the appropriate way to mark it would be the publication of a special volume of papers on theoretical biology. While editing this book during 2003 and early 2004 we realized that another milestone was not far off: in 2005 it will be 70 years ago that the journal was founded. We hope that the book lying before you will serve well to mark both events. The papers collected here have been written on invitation by representatives of the theoretical biology community in The Netherlands. They are intended to reflect the entire spectrum of topics on which *Acta Biotheoretica* publishes, ranging from philosophy of biology on one end to mathematical biology on the other. All chapters except our own introductory one have been peer reviewed according to the standards that are maintained with respect to regular submissions to *Acta Biotheoretica*. *The Philosophy of Biology* Kostas Kampourakis, 2013-06-18 This book brings together for the first time philosophers of biology to write about some of the most central concepts and issues in their field from the perspective of biology education. The chapters of the book cover a variety of topics ranging from traditional ones such as biological explanation, biology and religion, or biology and ethics to contemporary ones such as genomics, systems biology, or evolutionary developmental biology. Each of the 30 chapters covers the respective philosophical literature in detail and makes specific suggestions for biology education. The aim of this book is to inform biology educators, undergraduate and graduate students in biology and related fields, students in teacher training programs, and curriculum developers about the current state of discussion on the major topics in the philosophy of biology and its implications for teaching biology. In addition, the book can be valuable to philosophers of biology as an introductory text in undergraduate and graduate courses. **A Companion to the**

Philosophy of Biology Sahotra Sarkar, Anya Plutynski, 2010-11-08 **A COMPANION TO THE PHILOSOPHY OF BIOLOGY** Sarkar is to be congratulated for assembling this talented team of philosophers who are themselves to be congratulated for writing these interesting essays on so many fascinating areas in philosophy of biology. This book will be a wonderful resource for future work. Elliot Sober, University of Wisconsin-Madison. Many of the discussions here start with a definition of terms and a historical context of the subject before delving into the deeper philosophical issues, making it a useful reference for students of biology as well as philosophy. *Northeastern Naturalist*. The topics that are addressed are done so well. This book will appeal to the advanced student and knowledgeable amateur and may prove useful catalyst for discussion among research teams or those engaged in cross-disciplinary studies. **Reference Reviews** *A Companion to the Philosophy of Biology* offers concise overviews of philosophical issues raised by all areas of biology. Addressing both traditional and emerging areas of philosophical interest, the volume focuses on the philosophical implications of evolutionary theory as well as key topics

such as molecular biology immunology and ecology Comprising essays by top scholars in the field this volume is an authoritative guide for professional philosophers historians sociologists and biologists as well as an accessible reference work for students seeking to learn about this rapidly changing field 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 *A Critical Overview of Biological Functions* Justin Garson, 2016-03-30 This book is a critical survey of and guidebook to the literature on biological functions It ties in with current debates and developments and at the same time it looks back on the state of discourse in naturalized teleology prior to the 1970s It also presents three significant new proposals First it describes the generalized selected effects theory which is one version of the selected effects theory maintaining that the function of a trait consists in the activity that led to its differential persistence or reproduction in a population and not merely its differential reproduction Secondly it advances within discipline pluralism as opposed to between discipline pluralism a new form of function pluralism which emphasizes the coexistence of function concepts within diverse biological sub disciplines Lastly it provides a critical assessment of recent alternatives to the selected effects theory of function namely the weak etiological theory and the systems theoretic theory The book argues that to the extent that functions purport to offer causal explanations for the existence of a trait there are no viable alternatives to the selected effects view The debate about biological functions is still as relevant and important to biology and philosophy as it ever was Recent controversies surrounding the ENCODE Project Consortium in genetics the nature of psychiatric classification and the value of ecological restoration all point to the continuing relevance to biology of philosophical discussion about the nature of functions In philosophy ongoing debates about the nature of biological information intentionality health and disease mechanism and even biological trait classification are closely related to debates about biological functions Philosophy of Evolutionary Biology Stefan Linquist, 2017-03-02 The impact of evolutionary theory on the philosophy of science has been no less profound than its impact on the science of biology itself Advances in this theory provide a rich set of examples for thinking about the nature of scientific explanation and the structure of science Many of the developments in our understanding of evolution resulted from contributions by both philosophers and biologists engaging over theoretical questions of mutual interest This volume traces some of the most influential exchanges in this field over the last few decades

Focal topics include the nature of biological functions adaptationism as an explanatory and methodological doctrine the levels of selection debate the concepts of fitness and drift and the relationship of evolutionary to developmental biology

Species Problems and Beyond John S. Wilkins, Frank E. Zachos, Igor Ya. Pavlinov, 2022-06-14 *Species Problems and Beyond* offers a collection of up to date essays discussing from an interdisciplinary perspective the many ramifications of the Species Problem The authors represent experts in the philosophy of biology in species level evolutionary investigations and in biodiversity studies and conservation Some of the topics addressed concern the context sensitivity of the term species species as individuals processes natural kinds or as operative concepts species delimitation in the age of Big genomic Data and taxonomic inflation and its consequences for conservation strategies The carefully edited volume will be an invaluable resource for philosophers of biology and evolutionary biologists alike Olivier Rieppel Rowe Family Curator of Evolutionary Biology Negaunee Integrative Research Center Field Museum USA *Species or the Species Problem* is a topic in science in the philosophy of science and in general philosophy In fact it encompasses many aspects of the same problem and these are dealt with in this volume Species are often thought of as fundamental units of biological matter to be used in ecology conservation classification and biodiversity The chapters in this book present opposing views on the current philosophical and conceptual issues of the Species Problem in biology Divided into four sections Concepts and Theories Practice and Methods Ranks and Trees and Names and Metaphysics and Epistemologies the book is authored by biologists philosophers and historians many leaders in their fields Topics include ontology of species definitions of both species category and units species rank speciation issues nomenclature ecology and species conservation *Species Problems and Beyond* aims to clarify the contemporary issues of the Species Problem It is ideal for use in upper level seminars and courses in Evolutionary Biology Philosophy of Science Philosophy of Biology Systematics and Taxonomy and Phylogenetics Cladistics and for any scholar in these fields 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 *Genetic Analysis* Raphael

Falk,2009-05-14 There is a paradox lying at the heart of the study of heredity To understand the ways in which features are passed on down from one generation to the next we have to dig deeper and deeper into the ultimate nature of things from organisms to genes to molecules And yet as we do this increasingly we find we are out of focus with our subjects What has any of this to do with the living breathing organisms with which we started Organisms are living Molecules are not How do we relate one to the other In Genetic Analysis one of the most important empirical scientists in the field in the twentieth century attempts through a study of history and drawing on his own vast experience as a practitioner to face this paradox head on His book offers a deep and innovative understanding of our ways of thinking about heredity Life on Earth and other Planetary Bodies Arnold Hanslmeier,Stephan Kempe,Joseph Seckbach,2012-10-29 A trio of editors Professors from Austria Germany and Israel present Life on Earth and other Planetary Bodies The contributors are from twenty various countries and present their research on life here as well as the possibility for extraterrestrial life This volume covers concepts such as life s origin hypothesis of Panspermia and of life possibility in the Cosmos The topic of extraterrestrial life is currently hot and the object of several congresses and conferences While the diversity of normal biota is well known life on the edge of the extremophiles is more limited and less distributed Other subjects discussed are Astrobiology with the frozen worlds of Mars Europa and Titan where extant or extinct microbial life may exist in subsurface oceans conditions on icy Mars with its saline alkaline and liquid water which has been recently discovered chances of habitable Earth like or the terrestrial analogues exoplanets and SETI s search for extraterrestrial Intelligence

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