

The Philosophy of Biology

University of Stirling

Friday 13th to Sunday 15th May 2005

Organisers: Denis Walsh (Toronto) and Mike Wheeler (Stirling)

The philosophy of biology is a burgeoning field, but somewhat underrepresented in the United Kingdom. During the academic year 2004-2005 there has been an uncommonly large concentration of non-UK-based philosophers of biology operating, temporarily, in the UK. This has presented an opportunity to bring together UK-based researchers in philosophy of biology (and those whose interests overlap with philosophy of biology) and their international colleagues. In order to promote this end a series of three workshops on philosophy of biology and related issues have been organised in Britain, throughout the year. Previous workshops were held in Cambridge and Bristol. The final, and largest, workshop will take place in Stirling in May 2005. One area of particular interest for the Stirling workshop concerns the interpretation of the Modern Synthesis theory of evolution. This is an issue that has received an enormous amount of attention in the last few years, and continues to be one of the central issues in philosophy of biology. Many of the major contributors to this debate will be at the Stirling workshop.

Programme

Friday 13th May

14.30-15.00 Arrival, Registration, and Tea/Coffee

15.00-16.30: Elliott Sober (Wisconsin Madison), Epiphenomenalism – a User's Guide

16.30-17.00: Tea/Coffee

17.00-18.00: Margaret Morrison (Toronto), Explanation and Mathematical Abstraction

Saturday 14th May

9.00-10.00: Denis Walsh (Toronto), Population-Level Causes, Statistical Effects

10.00-11.00: Phyllis McKay (Stirling), Causation and the Nature of Selection

11.00-11.30: Tea/Coffee

11.30-12.30: Jon Hodge (Leeds), Natural Selection as a Causal Process Theory

12.30-13.45: Lunch

13.45-14.45: Mohan Matthen (University of British Columbia), The Two-Level Structure of Causation in Neo-Darwinian Theories of Evolution

14.45-15.45: Andre Ariew (Rhode Island), Some Crucial Differences between Darwin's Theory of Natural Selection and Neo-Darwinian Theories of Natural Selection

15.45-16.15: Tea/Coffee

16.15-17.15: Angela Potochnik (Stanford), Another Kind of Unity: The Case of Evolutionary Modeling

17.15-18.15: Matthew Elton (Independent Scholar), Dennett, Gould, and the Reach of Design Space

Sunday 15th May

9.00-10.00: Mike Wheeler (Stirling), Traits, Genes and Codes

10.00-11.00: Nick Shea (Oxford), Innateness Across Contexts: A Seductive Similarity

11.00-11.15: Tea/Coffee

11.15-12.15: Ulrich Stegmann (Kings College, London), Non-Rigid Designation and the Explananda of Natural Selection

12.15-13.15: Gregory Radick (Leeds), Theory-Laden Observation and the Success of Mendelism