

# The Origin of Life: History and Philosophy of Astrobiology

Höör, Sweden 8–10 May 2015  
Preliminary scientific programme

Thursday, May 7, 2015	
18:30 – 19:30	Registration of participants
19:30 – 20:30	Buffet dinner
22:00 – 23:00	Registration of participants, Sandwiches for late comers
Friday, May 8, 2015	
08:00 – 09:00	Registration
09:00 – 09:15	<b>Welcome address and organizational matters</b> <i>David Dunér, Lund University, Sweden</i> <i>Wolf Geppert, Stockholm University, Sweden</i> <i>Christophe Malaterre, Université du Québec à Montréal, Canada</i>
09:15	<b>Session 1: History of Ideas on the Origin of Life</b> <i>Chair: David Dunér, Lund University, Sweden</i>
09:15 – 09:55	<b>Keynote Lecture</b> <b>The Origin of Life: Scientific Solution versus Chance and Telos</b> <i>Iris Fry, Technion Israel Institute of Technology</i>
09:55 – 10:00	Discussion
10:00 – 10:20	<b>Herbert Spencer: The Origin of Life and the Progressive Evolution of Matter</b> <i>Stéphane Tirard, Université de Nantes, France</i>
10:20 – 10:25	Discussion
10:25 – 10:45	<b>Journeys of Wonder to the Origin of Life: Narratives of Meaning in a Meaningless Universe – Carl Sagan and Richard Dawkins</b> <i>Daniel Helsing, Lund University, Sweden</i>
10:45 – 10:50	Discussion
10:50 – 11:20	Coffee break
11:20	<b>Session 2: Theories of Origin of Life</b> <i>Chair: Wolf Geppert, Stockholm University, Sweden</i>
11:20 – 12:00	<b>Keynote Lecture</b> <b>Organization and Evolvability of Early Chemical/Biological Systems</b> <i>Eörs Szathmáry, Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest, Hungary</i>
12:05 – 12:10	Discussion
12:10 – 12:30	<b>Protocells: Empirical and Theoretical Constructs to Articulate Research on Origins of Life</b> <i>Sara Murillo Sánchez, University of the Basque Country (UPV/EHU), Spain</i>
12:30 – 12:35	Discussion
12:35 – 12:55	<b>Four Physicochemical Premises for Natural Emergence of Life</b> <i>Jan Spitzer, Mallard Creek Polymers Inc., Charlotte NC, USA</i>
12:55 – 13:00	Discussion
13:00 – 14:30	Lunch break
14:30	<b>Session 3: Life: Concepts and Definitions</b> <i>Chair: Erik Persson, Lund University, Sweden</i>
14:30 – 15:10	<b>Keynote Lecture</b> <b>Life without Definitions</b> <i>Carol Cleland, University of Colorado, USA</i>
15:10 – 15:15	Discussion

15:15 – 15:35	<b>Applying Statistical Models to the Family Resemblance Definition of ‘Life’</b> <i>Jessica Abbott, Lund University, Sweden</i>
15:35 – 15:40	Discussion
15:40 – 16:00	<b>Defining Life as Biosphere Complexity</b> <i>Thomas Böttcher, University of Konstanz, Germany</i>
16:00 – 16:05	Discussion
16:05 – 16:25	<b>Why Ask, “What is Life?”</b> <i>Kelly C. Smith, Clemson University, USA</i>
16:25 – 16:30	Discussion
16:30 – 17:00	Coffee break
17:00	<b>Session 4: Theories of Origins of Life (2)</b> <i>Chair: Kepa Ruiz-Mirazo, University of the Basque Country, Spain</i>
17:00 – 17:20	<b>Keynote Lecture</b> <b>More or Less Alive: How Possible?</b> <i>Christophe Malaterre, Université du Québec à Montréal, Canada</i>
17:20 – 17:25	Discussion
17:25 – 17:45	<b>Where/When/How Did Life Begin? A Philosophical Key for Systematizing Theories on the Origin of Life</b> <i>Adam Świeżyński, Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University, Poland</i>
17:45 – 17:50	Discussion
17:50 – 18:10	<b>Toward a Greater Modesty on the Matter of Origins</b> <i>Joel Parthemore, University of Skövde, Sweden</i>
18:10 – 18:15	Discussion
18:30 – 20:00	Dinner
20:00	<b>Poster session</b>
<b>Saturday, May 9, 2015</b>	
08:30	<b>Session 5: The Transition from Chemistry to Biology</b> <i>Chair: Klara Anna Capova, Durham University, United Kingdom</i>
08:30 – 08:50	<b>Keynote Lecture</b> <b>Formation of Biomolecule Precursors in Space and Planetary Atmospheres</b> <i>Wolf Geppert, Stockholm University, Sweden</i>
08:50 – 08:55	Discussion
08:55 – 09:15	<b>On the Phenomenal Width of the Chemical-Biological Divide</b> <i>Kepa Ruiz-Mirazo, University of the Basque Country (UPV/EHU), Spain</i>
09:15 – 09:20	Discussion
09:20 – 09:40	<b>Evolution, Optimality and Astrobiology</b> <i>Tomislav Janović, University of Zagreb, Croatia</i>
09:40 – 09:45	Discussion
09:45 – 10:15	Coffee break
10:15	<b>Session 6: Lessons from Biology</b> <i>Chair: Christophe Malaterre, Université du Québec à Montréal, Canada</i>
10:15 – 10:55	<b>Keynote Lecture</b> <b>Philosophy of Microbiology and Major Evolutionary Turning Points</b> <i>Maureen O’Malley, University of Sydney, Australia</i>
10:55 – 11:00	Discussion
11:00 – 11:20	<b>Viruses and Life</b> <i>Purificación López-García, CNRS and Université Paris-Sud, France</i>
11:20 – 11:25	Discussion
11:25 – 11:45	<b>Microbes Holding the Clue to General Organizational Principles?</b> <i>Andrea Loettgers, University of Bern, Switzerland</i>
11:45 – 11:50	Discussion
11:50 – 13:00	Lunch

13:00 – 19:45	Excursion to Ven Island Visit of Tycho Brahe Museum
20:30	Conference Dinner
<b>Sunday, May 10, 2015</b>	
<b>09:00</b>	<b>Session 7: Historical, Philosophical and Theological Perspectives on Life</b> <i>Chair: Stéphane Tirard, Université de Nantes, France</i>
<b>09:00 – 09:20</b>	<b>The New Wild West: Vital Ontologies, Contagion</b> <i>Jami Weinstein, Linköping University, Sweden</i>
<b>09:20 – 09:25</b>	Discussion
<b>09:25 – 09:45</b>	<b>The Planet Venus in the Eighteenth Century Extraterrestrial Life Debate</b> <i>David Dunér, Lund University, Sweden</i>
<b>09:45 – 09:50</b>	Discussion
<b>09:50 – 10:10</b>	<b>“What is Life?” – What Theology Can Contribute to the Question</b> <i>Andreas Losch, University of Bern, Switzerland</i>
<b>10:10 – 10:15</b>	Discussion
10:15 – 10:45	<i>Coffee break</i>
<b>10:45</b>	<b>Session 8: Interplanetary Ethics</b> <i>Chair: David Dunér, Lund University, Sweden</i>
<b>10:45 – 11:05</b>	<b>The Ethics and Science of How to Establish that a World is Uninhabited Before Exploitation</b> <i>Erik Persson, Lund University, Sweden</i>
<b>11:05 – 11:10</b>	Discussion
<b>11:10 – 11:30</b>	<b>Common Origins and the Ethics of Planetary Seeding</b> <i>Tony Milligan, University of Hertfordshire, United Kingdom</i>
<b>11:30 – 11:35</b>	Discussion
<b>11:35 – 11:55</b>	<b>Shall They Stay or Shall We Let Them Go ... ?</b> <i>Klara Anna Capova, Durham University, United Kingdom</i>
<b>11:50 – 12:00</b>	Discussion
12:00	Conclusion Lunch and departure of participants

