

## **Contemporary debates in philosophy of science**

The lectures organized by Nathalie Gontier

**1. Guest lecture by dr. Tinneke Beeckman (Vrije Universiteit Brussel), 12 March, 15h-18h**

Historical origin of naturalism, mechanistic thinking and its continuing influence on modern science

**2. General introduction to philosophy of biology, 19 March, 15h-18h**

The different philosophical theories that influenced Darwin's thinking, the mechanism of natural selection on a meta-level, the formation of the Modern Synthesis, and Post-Neodarwinian thinking

**3. Evolutionary Epistemology & the units and levels of selection debate, 26 March, 15h-18h**

Evolution from the point of view of the organism, the gene and the environment. Discussed authors are Donald Campbell, Michael Bradie, William Harms, Richard Dawkins, Richard Lewontin, Robert Brandon, ...

**4. Guest lecture by Prof. Carrapiço on Symbiogenesis, 2 April, 15h-18h**

The founding fathers of symbiogenesis, the difference with natural selection, its implementation in virology, botany and medicine. A case study of Azolla.

**5. Punctuated equilibrium, 9 April, 15h-18h**

The history of the idea, the difference between gradualism and punctuation, the Cambrian explosion, the application of punctuated equilibrium to material culture (Gould and Lewontin)

**6. Behavioural modernity and archaeology, 16 April, 15h-18h**

Anatomical modernity versus behavioural modernity, the archaeological record, the different hominin species

**7. The origin and evolution of language, 23 April, 15h-18h**

Different theories on the origin of language