

Individuality, Composition, and Persistence in Metaphysics and Philosophy of Biology

Annual Meeting of the Swiss Society for Logic and Philosophy of Science, 6-7 October 2025

Venue: University of Geneva, 2 rue Daniel Colladon

The problem of stating the conditions under which a (living) thing remains the same under change has been known since antiquity. More recently, it has been joined by questions about composition, parthood, the very notion of biological individuality and the special category of organism. This workshop brings together metaphysicians and philosophers of biology to touch base on these questions.

Programme:

Monday, 6 October

10:00 – 11:15	Elena Casetta, Why (Some) Ecosystems Might Be Individuals
11:15 – 11:30	Coffee
11:30 – 12:45	Damiano Costa, What Biology Can Tell Us About Temporal Existence
12:45 – 14:15	Lunch
14:15 – 15:30	Ellen Clarke, A Substance View of Organismal Identity
15:30 – 15:45	Coffee
15:45 – 17:00	Samuel Meister, Hylomorphism and Persistence (in Aristotle)
17:00 – 18:00	<i>SSLPS Business meeting</i>
19:00	Conference Dinner

Tuesday, 7 October

9:00 - 10:15	Marie Kaiser, Biological Individuality as Phenotypic-Ecological Uniqueness
10:15 – 10:30	Coffee
10:30 – 11:45	Florian Gatignon, Counterparts, Flexibility, and Persistent Organisms
11:45 – 13:00	Margarida Hermida, Living Objects
13:00	Lunch