



ODJEL ZA FILOZOFIJU HRVATSKIH STUDIJA SVEUČILIŠTA U ZAGREBU

UDRUGA ZA PROMICANJE FILOZOFIJE

pozivaju Vas na predavanje

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Philosophy of Biology and the Challenge of EvoDevo

The ‘new’ philosophy of biology that emerged in the mid-1970s is broadly naturalistic in its epistemological outlook, rejecting Cartesian *prima philosophia* (epistemological foundationalism) in favor of the view (which was officially Quine’s) that matters of fact are as relevant to philosophy as they are to science. Evolutionary developmental biology (‘EvoDevo’) arose around the same time as a response to the incompleteness of the Modern Synthesis in evolutionary biology, and in particular its blindness to the (developing) organism as the major locus of (evolutionary) agency. After reviewing the state of the art in both fields, I will argue that a philosophical naturalism committed to causal-mechanistic explanation best suits an organismic systems approach to EvoDevo and evolutionary theory at large (comprising both biological and cultural evolution), and avoids the pitfalls of scholasticism that already threaten the recently professionalized philosophy of biology.

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