



## Newsletter

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Welcome to an occasional letter from the Mistakes in Living Systems team. We are a multi-disciplinary [team](#) of philosophers and scientists working on a three-year project funded by a generous grant from the [John Templeton Foundation](#).

Our project's full title is: [Mistakes in Living Systems: A New Conceptual Framework for the Study of Purpose in Biology](#). It is one part of a multi-year, multi-million dollar global cohort programme, involving teams of scientists and philosophers from around the world, funded by the Templeton Foundation. The global programme is entitled [Agency, Directionality and Function](#).

The objective of the global research programme is to undertake fresh investigations into the concept of [teleology](#), or *goal-directedness*, in organisms and other living systems (such as sub-systems of organisms, species, and ecosystems).

Our project at the University of Reading (one of four UK projects to be funded, the others being Bristol, Cambridge, and Southampton), is investigating the concept of *mistake-making* as a potential universal framework for biological research.

You can read more about the project at our newly launched [website](#).

To register for future newsletters, please sign up [here](#).

In particular, you can read our first publication (gold open access), in the *Quarterly Review of Biology*: [Mistake-Making: A Theoretical Framework for Generating Research Questions in Biology, With Illustrative Application to Blood Clotting](#).

## Recent activities

- The team attended (online) the first Summit meeting, held in March, bringing together all the teams to give introductory presentations about their projects. (Ours, re-recorded due to original audio quality issues, is on our website.)
- We discussed our project with [Eva Jablonka](#), whose work on biological function and information is of relevance to our research.
- We discussed our project with, and learned more about the project of, the team led by [Charbel El-Hani](#), which is working on an organisational account of ecological function.
- Our weekly team meetings cover all aspects of the project, with particular focus on the two papers we are working on in year 1, provisionally titled 'Mistake-Making: What it is and What it Means for Biology', and 'Reduction, Correctness, and Constraints'.

David Oderberg (Philosophy), Jonathan Hill (PCLS), Ingo Bojak (PCLS), Jon Gibbins (Biological Sciences), Christopher Austin (Postdoctoral Research Assistant), François Cinotti (Postdoctoral Research Assistant)

