



Newsletter

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Welcome to an occasional newsletter 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](#).

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

Recent activities

- Theoretical biologist [Stuart Kauffman](#) spoke to the team about his work, particularly with reference to anti-reductionism in biology, the interface between biology and physics, and his ideas about the [Third Transition in Science](#).
- Physiologist [J Scott Turner](#) spoke to the team about purpose in nature, with reference to his most recent book [Purpose and Desire](#).
- The team received helpful feedback on the draft of our paper 'Biological Mistakes' from the [Templeton cluster](#) to which we belong. Many thanks in particular to Justin Garson and James DiFrisco for their comments.
- We have just completed a paper on biological reductionism, soon to be submitted to journals.

Upcoming activities

- Prof Oderberg will be presenting the 'Biological Mistakes' paper to the Departmental Colloquium at Reading on 10 November 2022.
- Prof Oderberg will deliver (23 November) a Royal Institute of Philosophy/John Templeton Foundation public lecture entitled 'To Err is Not (Only) Human: Mistakes and What they Mean for Biology and Philosophy' (The booking and information site is located at <https://www.store.reading.ac.uk/conferences-and-events/faculty-of-arts-humanities-social-science/philosophy/to-err-is-not-only-human-mistakes-and-what-they-mean-for-biology-and-philosophy>).
- Dr. Austin will be giving a talk entitled 'Untangling the Web of Life' to the Departmental Colloquium on 6th October 2002.

- On 14 October Dr Stephen Boulter, a philosopher of biology at Oxford Brookes University, will be presenting to the team at Wolfson College, University of Oxford, on teleology and reductionism.
- On 2 December, Dr Eva Kevei (Reading) and Netta Cohen (Leeds) will present to the team, at Reading, on the behaviour of *C elegans* with reference to mistakes and teleology.

