

Call for abstracts

Mechanisms and Ontic Causation in Life Sciences is the theme of the 2nd workshop of the MeCauLife collaboration. It will take place on June 15-16 2023 in Louvain-la-Neuve (Belgium) at the Institut supérieur de philosophie ([ISP](#)) of the Université catholique de Louvain ([UCLouvain](#)).

Probably because of a certain prudence towards metaphysical considerations, the dominant conception of causality discussed in philosophy of life sciences (and, it is assumed, in life sciences) is the manipulation account. An event A is a cause of event B if the manipulation of A will result in the manipulation of B. This is what we might call an ontologically light conception of causation, as it considers only apparently metaphysically benign concepts around experimentation. However, in contemporary biology a lot of potentially more heavy causal talk is used: transmission of information (genetic or other), duplication and reproduction, natural selection, biochemical processes... To shy away from making philosophical sense of these is even less justified when we notice how a mechanistic conception of biological systems has recently become more and more popular, which crucially involves discussion of “entities” and their “activities,” both often left underspecified. In this workshop, we would like to investigate what it would mean for our understanding of biological causation if we take seriously this more metaphysically heavy language.

Note that any approach to this theme is potentially acceptable. However, contributions about how to develop an ontic conception of causality in biology will have the preference of the selection committee.

Invited and consortium speakers

Marie I. KAISER, Bielefeld University
Daniel LIU, ICI Berlin
Marcel WEBER, Université de Genève

Ruey-Lin CHEN, National Chung Cheng University
Richard HOU, National Chung Cheng University
Jonathon HRICKO, National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University
Linton WANG, National Chung Cheng University
Karen YAN, National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University

Submission of abstracts

Deadline

All contributions should be submitted **before ~~February 1, 2023~~ March 1, 2023**.

Contributions format

All submissions must include an abstract (max 1000 words) entered directly on the submission platform in the appropriate input field.

How to submit

All submissions must be made exclusively electronically via the website:

<https://mecauplife.sciencesconf.org/>

You will have to create an account in order to submit.

The program committee will inform contributors of results on ~~March 1, 2023~~ **March 20, 2023**
