

# Guillaume Schlaepfer – Ph. D. Candidate in Philosophy of Biology

## Personal Data

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First name: Guillaume  
Name: Schlaepfer  
Date of birth: 12.01.1982  
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## Education

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- 2012-... **Ph. D. in Philosophy of Biology**, directed by Prof. Marcel Weber  
University of Geneva, Faculty of Arts, Philosophy Department  
**Title:** Scientific Thought Experiments and Modeling in Evolutionary Biology  
**Expected:** 12.2016
- 2008-2012 **Bachelor of Arts in General History and German Language, Literature and Civilization** (180 ECTS) with **Complementary Studies in Philosophy** (84 ECTS)  
University of Geneva, Faculty of Arts  
Bachelor's thesis in German Linguistics on readability of school textbooks
- 2005-2008 **Bi-disciplinary Master of Science, major Biology, minor Physics**  
University of Geneva, Faculty of Sciences  
Physics courses and practical work (60 ECTS), one semester training course and Master's thesis (30 ECTS)  
**Training course:** research fellow in the laboratory of Dr. Françoise Stutz, Department of Cell Biology  
**Thesis title:** Stop of antisense RNA transcription by using a hammerhead ribozyme and aspects of electrospray deposition (ESD) of biomolecules, highest grade (6/6) obtained
- 2005-2006 Two semesters of **Erasmus exchange in Germany**  
Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Institut für Physik
- 2002-2005 **Bachelor of Science in Biology**  
University of Geneva, Faculty of Sciences
- 2001-2002 One year at the **School of Computer and Communication Sciences** (IC, Informatique et Communication), section of Communication Systems (SC)  
Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL, swiss academic level engineering school)
- 1997-2001 **Matura Diploma in Sciences**, with Honours, Collège Calvin, Geneva

## Publications

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Schlaepfer, G., & Weber, M. (forthcoming). Thought Experiments in Biology. In J. R. Brown, Y. Fehige, & M. T. Stuart (Eds.), *The Routledge Companion to Thought Experiments*

Schlaepfer, G. (to be submitted). Models of Natural Selection: Either Causal or Apriori, but Syntactically True and Possibly Explanatory.

Camblong, J., Beyrouthy, N., Guffanti, E., Schlaepfer, G., Steinmetz, L. M., & Stutz, F. (2009). Trans-acting antisense RNAs mediate transcriptional gene cosuppression in *S. cerevisiae*. *Genes & development*, 23(13), 1534–1545. doi:10.1101/gad.522509

## Talks, Presentations (selection)

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Models of Natural Selection: either apriori or causal, but syntactically true and possibly explanatory, retreat of the DFG-Research group “What if?”, Hegne, Germany, February 6-8, 2015

Comment on Maria Kronfeldner “How Behavioural Scientists Deal with Explanatory Complexity”, Third European Advanced Seminar in the Philosophy of the Life Sciences, Konrad Lorenz Institute, Klosterneuburg, Austria, September 5-10, 2014

Scientific modeling: a two-layers based hypothetical reasoning, Conference on Hypothetical Reasoning, Universität Tübingen, Germany, August 23-24, 2014

Darwin’s thought experiments: An epistemic role for fictional illustrations in evaluating theoretical models, Symposium with Peter Bowler, Universität Konstanz, Germany, May 8-9, 2014

Are there apriori causal models in evolutionary theory? International Conference CFCUL, Lisbon, Portugal, December 4-6, 2013

Poster presentation, How modeling impacts science?, Workshop Bridging Theoretical and Experimental Evolution, Institute of Ecology and Evolution, University of Bern, and CUSO (Conférence Universitaire de la Suisse Occidentale), La Fouly, June 12-15, 2013

Comment on Raphael Scholl and Tim Rüz, “Does the consensus view of idealization have legs?”, Workshop From False Models to Truth?, University of Bern, Switzerland, April 14, 2013

Two constraints for concept individuation, 2. Runde der Schweizer Philosophie-Olympiade 2013, Luzern, Switzerland, March 22, 2013

Malthusian thought experiment regarded as a model, Meeting of DFG-Forschergruppe “Was wäre wenn”, Konstanz, Germany, December 7, 2012

Comment on Adam Toon, “Molecular Models in Vivo and in Historico”, Second European Advanced Seminar in the Philosophy of the Life Sciences, Fondation Brocher, Geneva, Switzerland, September 10-14, 2012

## **Affiliations**

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Member of the **research seminar lgBIG** – lake geneva Biological Interest Group, University of Geneva, Switzerland

Member of the **DFG research group «What if?»** - On the Meaning, Epistemology and Scientific Relevance of Counterfactual Claims and Thought Experiments, based at the University of Konstanz, Germany

## **Editorial activity**

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Member of the editorial committee of **dialectica**, International journal of analytic philosophy since 2012

## **Organization of conferences**

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Co-organizer, Workshop Organisms, Machines and Mechanisms, University of Geneva, Switzerland, December 5-6, 2013

Co-organizer, “The Question ‘What if?’ in the Sciences and Humanities”, University of Geneva, Switzerland, July 4-5, 2013

## **Teaching experience**

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BA reading seminar in relation with the course « Introduction à la philosophie des sciences » given by Prof. M. Weber, seminar given together with Maximilian Huber, University of Geneva, Switzerland, Autumn 2013