



THE KLIFE NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the Fall-Winter 2024-2025 edition of the **KLife** Newsletter!

Dear friends of the KLI,

We hope you had a refreshing and enjoyable summer. Here at the KLI, the place is abuzz with activities and we are excited to share some wonderful news with you.

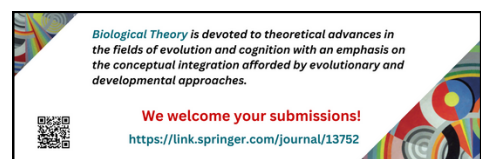
First and foremost, we are thrilled to announce that our journal Biological Theory has achieved an Impact Factor of 1.9! This is a significant milestone for both the journal and the KLI, placing us in the top quartile of journals in the category History and Philosophy of Science. We extend our heartfelt congratulations and deepest gratitude to the Chief Editor Stuart Newman, Managing Editor Deborah Klosky, Associate Editor Isabella Sarto-Jackson, and everyone else in the team!

We are also eagerly anticipating the launch of Kevin Lala's book Evolution Evolving, which will be celebrated in a public event at the KLI on November 7th. You are warmly invited to attend and join us for this special occasion! We are delighted to welcome Barbara Fischer as Group Leader for Evolutionary Biology. At the same time, we bid farewell to Guido Caniglia, who led the KLI wonderfully as Scientific Director from 2018 to 2024. We wish Guido all the best for his future endeavours.

In this issue of the KLife newsletter, we bring you news about upcoming events including KLI Colloquia, reports on previous events, research publications and other outputs, introducing new Fellows, and lots more. We hope you enjoy catching up on the life at KLI in this newsletter.

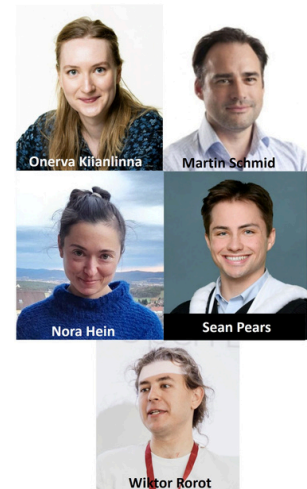
With warm regards to all our local and international friends; we look forward to staying connected with you, both here at the KLI and online.

The KLI Team



NEW FELLOWS

We welcome our new Writing-Up Fellows [Onerva Kiianlinna](#) and [Wiktor Rorot](#), Visiting Fellows [Martin Schmid](#) and [Sean Pears](#), and Research Assistant [Nora Hein](#). Onerva is pursuing her PhD at the University of Helsinki, studying aesthetic judging in contemporary evolutionary aesthetics. Wiktor is a PhD student at the University of Warsaw, with a background in cognitive science and philosophy. Martin is Professor of Environmental History at BOKU University, Vienna, interested in how industrialization has changed human societies' biophysical and symbolic mutual relations to nature. Sean is currently pursuing a Master's degree in Philosophy in Biology and Medicine at the University of Bordeaux, with a focus on evolutionary theory and the extended evolutionary synthesis. Nora Hein is pursuing a Master's degree in Organic Agricultural Systems and Agroecology at BOKU University in Vienna, and is at the KLI as a research assistant in the EU project PLUS Change.



UPCOMING EVENTS

KLI Colloquia

Join us for the Fall-Winter 2024-2025 Colloquium Series

Save the dates! This season, we have a series of great colloquium speakers lined up: [Martin Brüne](#) (Ruhr-University Bochum), [Mihaela Pavličev](#) (University of Vienna), [Kevin Lala](#) (University of St. Andrews), [Stuart Newman](#) (New York Medical College), [Sarah Davies](#) (University of Vienna), [Barbara Fischer](#) (KLI & University of Vienna), [Simon Huttegger](#) (University of California, Irvine), [Sergio Porta](#) (University of Strathclyde) and [Martin Schmid](#) (University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences Vienna (BOKU)).

Altenberg Workshop in Theoretical Biology


Aims, Norms, and Values in Scientific Classification for Biodiversity Conservation

The 42nd Altenberg Workshop in Theoretical Biology, themed "Aims, Norms, and Values in Scientific Classification for Biodiversity Conservation" will be held at the KLI from 8-11 October. It is organised by Joeri Witteveen & Federica Bocchi (University of Copenhagen), and will bring philosophers of science into conversation with ecologists, taxonomists, and other biodiversity scientists, to discuss and evaluate different perspectives on the role of values in species classification at the interface with conservation policy and practice.



FALL-WINTER 2024-25 KLI COLLOQUIUM
FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. THURSDAYS 3-4:30PM (CET)

Date	Time	Topic	Speaker
OCT 3	THURS 3-4:30 PM	LIFE HISTORY THEORY IN THE CLINICS: CHANCES AND PITFALLS	MARTIN BRÜNE, RUHR UNIVERSITY BOCHUM
OCT 24	THURS 3-4:30 PM	DECOUPLING OF PREGNANT AND NON-PREGNANT CYCLES ENABLES THE EVOLUTION OF MAMMALIAN GESTATION LENGTH AND BODY SIZE	MIHAELA PAVLIČEV, UNIVERSITY OF VIENNA
NOV 7	THURS 2-5 PM	PANEL DISCUSSION & COMMENTARIES: BOOK SYMPOSIUM: "EVOLUTION EVOLVING" (PRINCETON UNIVERSITY PRESS)	MEET THE AUTHORS: KEVIN N. LALA, TOSIAS LÄLLER, NATHALIE FENNER, MARCUS FELDMAN AND SCOTT F. GILBERT
NOV 14	THURS 3-4:30 PM	ONLINE TALK: AGENCY IN THE EVOLUTIONARY TRANSITION TO MULTICELLULARITY	STUART NEWMAN, NEW YORK MEDICAL COLLEGE
NOV 21	THURS 3-4:30 PM	HOW TO SUCCEED IN SCIENCE: WORK HARD, BUILD RELATIONSHIPS - AND BE LUCKY	SARAH DAVIES, UNIVERSITY OF VIENNA
NOV 28	THURS 3-4:30 PM	THE EVOLUTION OF HUMAN BIRTH	BARBARA FISCHER, KLI & UNIVERSITY OF VIENNA
DEC 5	THURS 3-4:30 PM	INDUCTIVE LOGIC: ITS HISTORY AND PROSPECTS	SIMON HUTTEGGER, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, IRVINE
JAN 16	THURS 3-4:30 PM	URBAN MORPHOMETRICS: A TALE OF SPACE, CITIES AND CULTURAL EVOLUTION	SERGIO PORTA, UNIVERSITY OF STRATHCLYDE
JAN 23	THURS 3-4:30 PM	THE DANUBE'S INDUSTRIALIZATION: A CO-EVOLUTIONARY ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY	MARTIN SCHMID, UNIVERSITY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND LIFE SCIENCES VIENNA (BOKU)



Aims, Norms, and Values in Scientific Classification for Biodiversity Conservation
Program
KLI
42nd ALTENBERG WORKSHOP IN THEORETICAL BIOLOGY

Book Symposium

Free and open to the public

Book Symposium: *Evolution Evolving* (Princeton University Press)

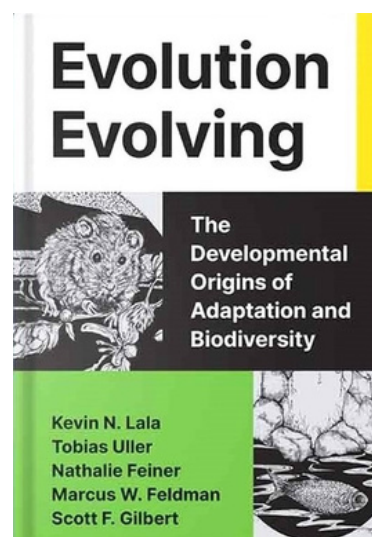
Date: 7 November 2024

Venue: KLI, Klosterneuburg, Austria

Time: 2:00 – 5:00 pm [Please register](#)

Program overview:

- Summary of the book by lead author Kevin Lala
- Commentaries on the book by Gerd Müller and Tim Lewens
- Panel discussion about the book chaired by Lynn Chiu, with authors Kevin Lala, Tobias Uller, Nathalie Feiner, Marc Feldman, and Scott Gilbert
- Snacks and wine reception



EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Altenberg Workshop in Theoretical Biology

Sociocultural EvoDevo: Cultural Neurobiological Inheritance Systems

The [41st Altenberg Workshop in Theoretical Biology](#), themed "[Sociocultural EvoDevo: Cultural Neurobiological Inheritance Systems](#)" was held at the KLI, from 18-21 June 2024. The workshop was organised by Isabella Sarto-Jackson (KLI) and Daniel O. Larson (California State University). It brought together world-renowned scholars from multiple fields including neurobiology, anthropology, evolutionary developmental biology, social psychology and human development. ([Read more...](#))



EASPLS summer school

Explanation and Evidence in Biology and Medicine

The [7th European Advanced School in the Philosophy of the Life Sciences \(EASPLS\)](#) was held at the KLI from 9-13 September 2024. This year's edition was led by Leonardo Bich (University of the Basque Country), Lucie Laplane (IHPST, CNRS/Université Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne), Matteo Mossio (IHPST, CNRS/Université Paris 1), on the topic, "Explanation and Evidence in Biology and Medicine". Lectures revolved around philosophical debates on explanation and evidence in the life sciences, analysing the existing strategies, evaluating their strengths, weaknesses, and mutual relations. ([Read more...](#))



7th European Advanced School in the Philosophy of the Life Sciences (EASPLS)

"Explanation and Evidence in Biology and Medicine"

9-13 September 2024,
KLI, Klosterneuburg, Austria.

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Paper

Trust and reliance in the cognitive institutions of cryptocurrency

In their new paper, published in the journal *Mind and Society*, Enrico Petracca, and Shaun Gallagher apply the philosophy of mind concept of the "socially extended mind" to the case of cryptocurrencies like Bitcoin. They see cryptocurrencies as institutions that perform some cognitive work (e.g., transaction verification) and identify trust as an unavoidable and desirable condition for performing such cognitive work. (Read more...)



Paper

The cliff edge model of the evolution of schizophrenia: mathematical, epidemiological, and genetic evidence

In their new paper published in *Neuroscience & Behavioral Reviews*, Philipp Mitteroecker and Giuseppe P. Merola present new theory for the puzzle of the evolution of Schizophrenia. Schizophrenia persists in human populations despite its negative effects on a person's evolutionary fitness. Mitteroecker and Merola develop a mathematical model, the cliff-edge model of the evolution of schizophrenia, based on the idea that schizophrenia is the extreme manifestation of a trait that, within a normal range of variation, confers an evolutionary advantage. (Read more...)

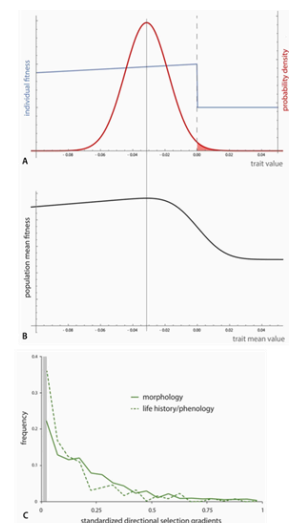


Fig. 2. Cliff edge model of schizophrenia, following the mathematical model of [Mitteroecker et al. \(2016\)](#).

Book Review Forum

Pollution Is Colonialism by Max Liboiron, Durham, NC, Duke University Press, 2021

This book review forum, published in the journal *Landscape Research* is edited by KLI Fellow Laura Menatti (Book Review Editor) along with Emma Waterson (Editor-in-Chief), with reviews contributed by Rosie 'Anolani Alegado (kanaka 'oiwi), tebrakunna country, Emma Lee, Niiyokamigaabaw Deondre Smiles, Tim Waterman and the book's author Max Liboiron. (Read more...)

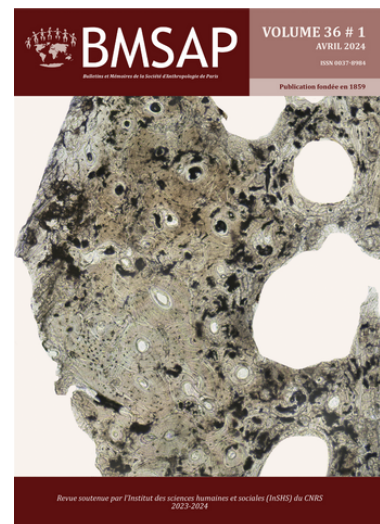


Image: Cover page of *Pollution is Colonialism* (Duke University Press)

Special Issue

Bulletins et Mémoires de la Société d'Anthropologie de Paris (BMSAP): Invasive, micro-invasive and non-invasive analyses of anthropobiological remains. How and Why?

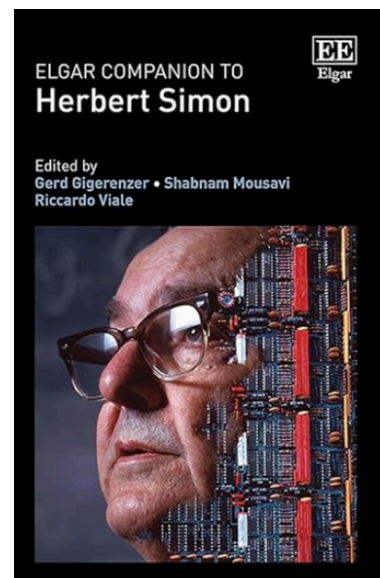
Edited by Anne Le Maître, along with colleagues from the Société d'Anthropologie de Paris, [this special issue](#) includes articles derived from presentations given at the [2023 Annual Meeting of the Société d'Anthropologie de Paris](#). ([Read more...](#))



Invited Book Chapter

A double-edged metaphor: Simon and the scissors of bounded rationality. In Elgar Companion to Herbert Simon (pp. 131-147). Edward Elgar Publishing.

Enrico Petracca contributed [a chapter titled, 'A double-edged metaphor: Simon and the scissors of bounded rationality'](#) in a book project dedicated to famous economist and cognitive scientist of the 20th century, Herbert H. Simon. The [book, 'Elgar Companion to Herbert Simon'](#) is edited by Gerd Gigerenzer, (the late) Shabnam Mousavi, and Riccardo Viale. ([Read more...](#))



Paper

Exploring the socio-ecology of science: the case of coral reefs

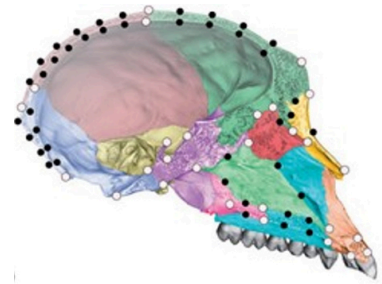
In his [new paper published in the European Journal for the Philosophy of Science](#), Elis Jones argues that scientific activity is literally niche construction. Using data from interviews conducted with coral scientists, Elis examines the socio-ecological dimensions of science, especially how science shapes and is shaped by the living world around it. ([Read more...](#))



Paper

Exploring Phylogenetic Signal in Multivariate Phenotypes by maximizing Blomberg's K

In their [recent paper published in Systematic Biology](#), Philipp Mitteroecker, Michael L. Collyer and Dean C. Adams introduce a new system to measure phylogenetic signal in multivariate phenotypes. ([Read more...](#))



Macaca fuscata cranium; different cranial bones are shown in different colors.
Image source: Mitteroecker et al. 2024

Paper

Connecting and integrating cooperation within and between species

In their [recent paper published in Philosophical Transactions B](#), Hari Sridhar (KLI), along with Judith L. Bronstein (University of Arizona) delve into the connection between two different levels of cooperation, viz., within species cooperation and between-species cooperation which is termed as mutualism. ([Read more...](#))



Cover image of issue, depicting network of mixed species bird flocks

Paper

Convergent evolution in Afrotheria and non-afrotherians demonstrates high evolvability of the mammalian inner ear

A [recent paper in Nature Communications](#), co-led by Nicole Gunstra (University of Vienna), Anne Le Maître (KLI) and Philipp Mitteroecker (KLI and University of Vienna) reveals convergent evolution of the inner ear in Afrotherian and non-Afrotherian mammals who have similar ecologies, demonstrating its high evolvability. ([Read more...](#))

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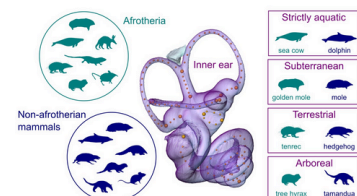
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Article | [Open access](#) | Published: 16 September 2024

Convergent evolution in Afrotheria and non-afrotherians demonstrates high evolvability of the mammalian inner ear

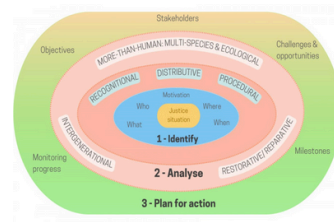
Nicole D. S. Gunstra^{1,2}, Fabian Hollneth, Guillermo Bravo Morante, Frank E. Zachos, Cathrin Pfaff, Viola Winkler, Philipp Mitteroecker & Anne Le Maître³

[Nature Communications](#) **15**, Article number: 7869 (2024) | [Cite this article](#)



Ethics Handbook as a practical guide for navigating ethical issues of equity and justice in land use research and practice

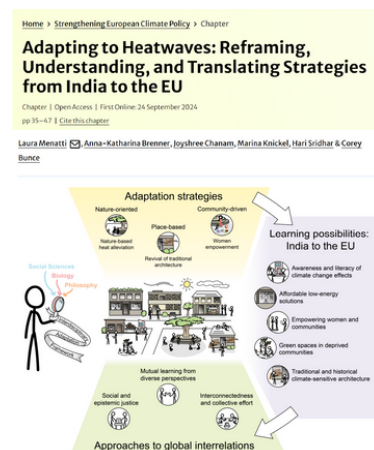
The KLI team engaged in the [Horizon Europe project PLUS Change](#) – Marina Knickel, Guido Caniglia, and Nora Hein – have developed an [Ethics Handbook](#) that provides guidance on dealing with ethical issues of equity and justice in land use research and practice. The main goal of the Handbook is to support actors in land use decision-making to prevent the exacerbation of social and environmental injustices that arise from uneven access to resources and decision-making power. ([Read more...](#))



A Justice Lens as a tool to identify, analyse and plan for action
Image source: Ethics Handbook

Adapting to Heatwaves: Reframing, Understanding, and Translating Strategies from India to the EU

A team of KLI Fellows, co-led by Laura Menatti and Corey Bunce, and including Anna-Katharina Brenner (KLI alumna), Joyshree Chanam, Marina Knickel and Hari Sridhar, contributed a book chapter titled, "[Adapting to Heatwaves: Reframing, Understanding, and Translating Strategies from India to the EU](#)" to the book *Strengthening European Climate Policy* produced by the European SSH CENTRE. This book chapter proposes an innovative framework for understanding adaptation to climate change through an interdisciplinary approach. ([Read more...](#))



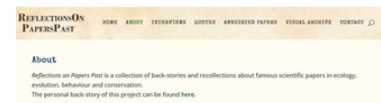
INTERVIEWS

Backstories of seminal papers in Ecology and Evolution

A new website of KLI Fellow Hari Sridhar's [oral history project](#), [Reflections on Papers Past](#) was launched earlier this year. It includes over 150 interviews with authors of seminal papers in Ecology and Evolution.

The two most recent interviews, both of which have a KLI connection, cover key papers in the development of the Extended Evolutionary Synthesis:

1. [KLI external faculty Kevin Lala](#) talks about the [2015 paper in Proceedings of the Royal Society of London B](#), which laid out a vision for the EES.
2. [Gerd Müller](#), [honorary president of the KLI](#), talks about his [2007 paper in Nature Review Genetics](#), which explored the implications of evo-devo for evolutionary theory, and served as a sort of trigger for the EES in the subsequent years.



BIOLOGICAL THEORY

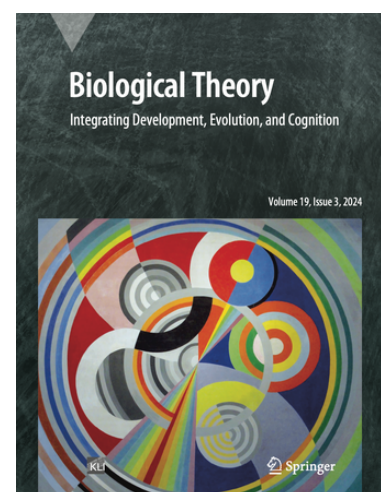
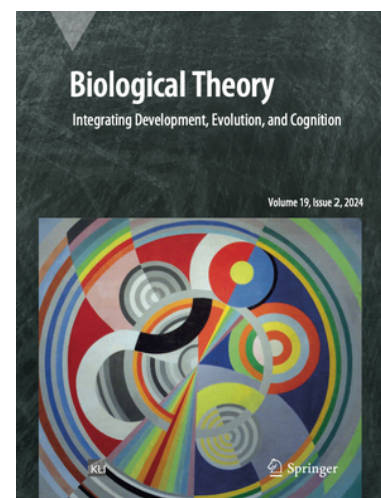
Biological Theory

Biological Theory Issue 19(2)

In June issue 19(2) [Claudio Rodríguez Higuera](#) explicates on Charles Sanders Peirce's philosophy of signs and its unexplored connections to modern philosophy of biology; [Harry Smit](#) examines two of the fundamental problems Ludwig Wittgenstein wrote about—the relation of negation to the intentionality of thought and the grounds of sensory experience; [Lenny Moss](#) follows up on the thematic section on “Concepts of Agency” that he guest-edited for the March issue, offering a review of current ideas about agency from three of its essays. It also includes [Gregory Kohn's](#) introductory essay to a classic paper on behavior by T. C. Schneirla, which has gained renewed importance, and [Robert Prinz's](#) guide to biological codes. ([Read more...](#))

Biological Theory Issue 19(3)

The September issue 19(3) includes articles by [Majid Beni](#) analyzing the concept of goal-directedness across scientific disciplines, [Nedah Nemat](#) on the use of lived experiences in sleep studies, [Catherine Read](#) and [Agnes Szokolszky](#) on how agency fits with the mutuality of animals and their environments, and [Gustavo Soldati](#) and [colleagues](#) on snake–human interactions for what it indicates about knowledge transmission and population evolution, an essay by [David Depew](#) about the relationship of Richard Lewontin's research program to the one he inherited from Theodosius Dobzhansky and two articles [Peter Takacs](#) and [Pierrick Bourrat](#) and [Sahotra Sarkar](#) delving into the debate on measuring reproductive fitness. ([Read more...](#))



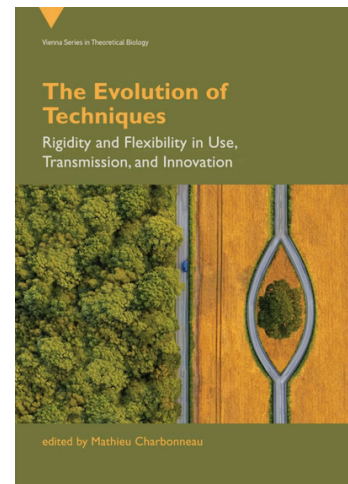
VIENNA SERIES IN THEORETICAL BIOLOGY

Vienna Series in Theoretical Biology

The Evolution of Techniques

Rigidity and Flexibility in Use, Transmission, and Innovation

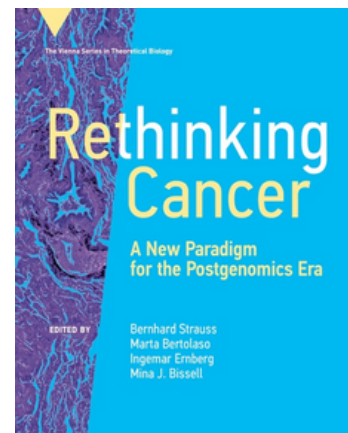
The latest book of the Vienna series of Theoretical Biology is titled, "The Evolution of Techniques: Rigidity and Flexibility in Use, Transmission, and Innovation". Edited by Mathieu Charbonneau, this book addresses 'the impacts of both flexibility and rigidity on how techniques are used, transformed, and reconstructed, at varying social and temporal scales'.



Vienna Series in Theoretical Biology

Chinese language translation of Rethinking Cancer

We are also happy to share that a Chinese language translation of Rethinking Cancer: A New Paradigm for the Postgenomics Era (Vienna Series in Theoretical Biology, August 2021) has been published by Tsinghua University Press in August 2024. Rethinking Cancer offers strong empirical and theoretical justification to change the current research paradigm in cancer research dominated by the Somatic Mutation Theory. We welcome you to revisit a 2021 interview with lead editor of the book, Bernhard Strauss, by KLI alumna Lynn Chiu.



OUTREACH

Members of the KLI are also actively engaged in public outreach efforts.

Isabella Sarto-Jackson was invited to speak on the Austrian national radio ORF; she was also invited to Science Talks by The Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research (BMBWF); and was also interviewed on The Dissenter Youtube Chanel.

Barbara Fischer was invited to deliver a lecture at the Natural History Museum on the evolution of birth. She, along with her team, also organised a workshop, "Solving the Riddles of Inheritance", for school students at the Vienna Natural History Museum which started in September 2024 and will be on till February 2025.

Anne Le Maître explained the evolution of the mammalian earlobe to Popular Science magazine.

Martin Schmid contributed an article on the social ecology of the anthropocene, for BOKU Magazine.



Past issues of The KLife Newsletter can be [downloaded as pdfs here](#).

Get in touch!

The KLI is an independent center of advanced studies in the life and sustainability sciences. The mission of the institute is to **enable scientific reasoning** that can contribute to understanding and sustaining life on Earth in its biological, cognitive, social, and cultural diversity.

The KLI supports research focusing on **evolutionary theory**, especially in its relation to development, cognition, and sustainability science, as well as on the history, philosophy, and social studies of science.

You can find further information about KLI on our [Homepage](#), [Twitter](#), and [YouTube](#).

This newsletter was created by Communications Manager Joyshree Chanam.
Please send comments and questions to joyshree.chanam@kli.ac.at