

PUBLIC PHILOSOPHY LECTURE

TO ERR IS NOT (ONLY) HUMAN:

Mistakes and what they mean for Biology and Philosophy

Wednesday 23 November 6pm–7.30pm

Room 109, Palmer Building, Whiteknights Campus

Light refreshments in the foyer at 5:30pm

**It is not only humans
who make mistakes.**

**So do other living
things, and even their parts.**

**This is one area where biology and
physics are distinct: electrons do not make
mistakes; organisms do. But what, exactly, is a
biological mistake? Can it be defined? Are mistakes found
across biology? Prof. Oderberg answers these questions,
showing how mistake-making in living systems can provide a
framework for generating new empirical hypotheses and tests
of interest to the working biologist.**

Prof. Oderberg and a team of scientists and philosophers are investigating the phenomenon of biological mistakes, under a three-year grant generously awarded by the John Templeton Foundation. The project ties in to a broader, global research programme involving many research teams working on agency, purpose and function in biology.

**All welcome. No prior knowledge of philosophy or
biology is presupposed.**



Agency
Directionality
& Function

