

# Worlds Apart? Aristotelian and Contemporary Engagement in Metaphysics and the Philosophy of Biology

April 14-15, 2016

University of Utah Department of Philosophy, Tanner Philosophy Library (CTIHB 459)  
[philosophy.utah.edu](http://philosophy.utah.edu)



*Aristotle the metaphysician?*

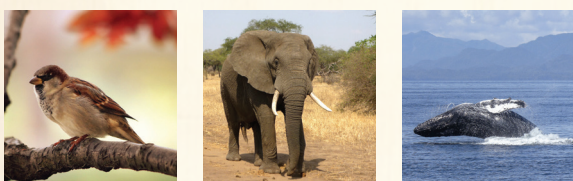


*Aristotle the philosopher of biology?*

While Raphael famously depicts Aristotle in conversation with Plato, Lee Green Richards's mural in the University of Utah's Park Building instead places him alongside none other than Charles Darwin. Certainly both pieces of art get something right about the questions Aristotle asked and the range of views he held. Aristotle was thoroughly engaged in the metaphysical conversations advanced by Plato, and at the same time actively devoted to the importance of empirical inquiry into living things.

*"...we should venture on the study of every kind of animal without distaste; for each and all will reveal to us something natural and something beautiful."*

(Aristotle, *Parts of Animals* I.5, 645<sup>a</sup>21-23)



But is there a tension between Aristotle the metaphysician and Aristotle the philosopher of biology, or does the philosopher bridge these disciplines in a unified way? How should we think about the relationship between these disciplines on the contemporary scene, particularly when many Aristotelian themes are again coming to the fore in both metaphysics and philosophy of biology? And how should these themes be investigated in the face of biological advances since Aristotle's time—advances that build, after all, upon Aristotle's own devotion to empirical inquiry into the science of life?

This conference advances the exchange of ideas between scholars of metaphysics and philosophy of biology both in ancient and in contemporary circles. Its guiding motivation, continuing in the spirit of Aristotle himself, is that each direction of this exchange can be strengthened in conversation with the other.

## Speakers:

Klaus Corcilius (University of California, Berkeley)  
Melinda Bonnie Fagan (University of Utah)  
Andrea Falcon (Concordia University, Montreal)  
Sabine Föllinger (Philipps-Universität Marburg)  
Matt Haber (University of Utah)  
William Jaworski (Fordham University)  
James Lennox (University of Pittsburgh)

Mariska Leunissen (University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill)  
Michael Loux (University of Notre Dame)  
Laura Nuño de la Rosa (Konrad Lorenz Institute, Vienna)  
Michael Peramatzis (University of Oxford)  
Anne Siebels Peterson (University of Utah)  
Diana Quarantotto (Sapienza Università di Roma)  
Denis Walsh (University of Toronto)

Organized by Anne Siebels Peterson, Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy

Sponsored By:

