



The Meaning of Life in the Universe

Guest Editor:

**Prof. Dr. Rainer E.
Zimmermann**

1. General Studies Department,
UAS Munich, 80335 München,
Germany

2. Clare Hall, University of
Cambridge, Cambridge CB3 9AL,
UK

pd00108@mail.lrz-muenchen.de

Deadline for manuscript
submissions:

closed (30 April 2021)

Message from the Guest Editor

Beyond the various topics of generalized geophysics and biology, the not only physical but also philosophical question arises for the explicit function of life within a physical universe. The idea is to visualize life as a complex physical system among others supporting the cosmic tendency of maximizing complexity (Stuart Kauffman). The meaning of life, then, shows up as life's function within the constituents of the universe which itself is being visualized as a maximal system. Research on these basic questions also has to ask for the philosophical foundations of physics and biology, taking care of the metaphysical discrepancy between the world as it is observed and the world as it really is. The concept of system itself, e.g., depends on epistemological aspects rather than on ontological aspects of the world. Hence, when we ask for the meaning of life in the universe, it is also necessary to reflect on the epistemological loop of self-reference, which is a consequence of the fact that human beings are a species that tries to illuminate what is producing it, including its epistemological instruments of cognitive perceptions in the first place.





an Open Access Journal by MDPI

Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. Marcin J. Schroeder

Global Learning Center, IEHE
(Institute for Excellence in Higher
Education), Tohoku University,
Sendai 980-8576, Japan

Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Philosophies searches for the syntheses of philosophical and scientific inquiries. It promotes philosophical work that is derived from the experience of diverse scientific disciplines and cultures. Multiple philosophies already exist — those of logic, information, computation, natural and artificial life, natural or artificial intelligence, complexity, technology, etc. Our mission is not to abandon philosophical roots and traditions of inquiry, but to promote the development of philosophical foundations and effective methodologies derived from diverse scientific explorations, and intended to enhance these explorations as to generate deeper and more holistic knowledge. Innovation may also be achieved through the cultural dimension. Other cultures can offer from their heritage a diversity of resources for exploration; these resources can also contribute to the emergent synthesis of philosophical inquiry.

Author Benefits

Open Access:— free for readers, with article processing charges (APC) paid by authors or their institutions.

High Visibility: indexed within Scopus, ESCI (Web of Science), PhilPapers, and many other databases.

Rapid Publication: manuscripts are peer-reviewed and a first decision provided to authors approximately 20.4 days after submission; acceptance to publication is undertaken in 6.2 days (median values for papers published in this journal in the first half of 2021).

Contact Us

Philosophies
MDPI, St. Alban-Anlage 66
4052 Basel, Switzerland

Tel: +41 61 683 77 34
Fax: +41 61 302 89 18
www.mdpi.com

mdpi.com/journal/philosophies
philosophies@mdpi.com