

SAPoLSN 2026 Workshop Program

Philosophy Meets the Life Sciences
24–25 August 2026
Macquarie University, Sydney

Day 1 (24 August)

Venue: Room 121, 1 Management Drive

Time	Speaker	Title
8:30–8:50	<i>Coffee / Registration</i>	
8:50–9:00	<i>Welcome</i>	
Morning	Chair: Pierrick Bourrat (Macquarie University)	
9:00–9:45	Rob Wilson (University of Western Australia)	The Progenerative View of Kinship as a Philosophical Intervention in the Fragile Sciences
9:45–10:30	Mingjun Zhang (Fudan University)	Demystifying Distinctively Mathematical Explanations
10:30–11:00	<i>Coffee Break 1</i>	
11:00–11:45	David Kaplan (Macquarie University)	It's about time: A mechanistic perspective on timescales and temporal organisation in the brain
11:45–12:30	Andreas Wagner (University of Zürich)	On the origin of new genes
12:30–2:00	<i>Lunch</i>	
Afternoon	Chair: Kangqiao Wang (Macquarie University)	
2:00–2:45	Chris Lean (Macquarie University)	Genomic Globalisation
2:45–3:30	Cristina Villegas (Konrad Lorenz Institute for Evolution and Cognition Research)	Modeling Evolutionary Variation with Causal Probability
3:30–4:00	<i>Coffee Break 2</i>	
4:00–4:45	Richard Menary (Macquarie University)	Good Enough? Optimising and Satisficing Strategies in Evolution and Cognition
4:45	<i>End of Day 1</i>	
6:00 pm	<i>Dinner at The Ranch</i>	

Day 2 (25 August)

Venue: Room 101 at 1 Management Drive

Time	Speaker	Title
8:30–9:00	<i>Coffee / Registration</i>	
Morning	Chair: Yiwen Zhan (Peking University)	
9:00–9:45	David Raubenheimer (University of Sydney)	Agencies in nutritional systems
9:45–10:30	Rachael Brown (Australian National University)	Is evolvability a disposition? Or why I was wrong in 2014
10:30–11:00	<i>Coffee Break 1</i>	
11:00–11:45	Paul Griffiths (University of Sydney and Macquarie University)	Animal Personalities
11:45–12:30	Andrew Barron (Macquarie University)	The first neural spatial representation
12:30–2:00	<i>Lunch</i>	
Afternoon	Chair: Matthew Sims (Macquarie University)	
2:00–2:45	John Matthewson (Massey University)	Model organisms and population types
2:45–3:30	Sandy Boucher (University of New England)	Endogenising organisation: organicism and the major transitions in evolution
3:30–4:00	<i>Coffee Break 2</i>	
4:00–4:45	Patrick McGivern (University of Wollongong)	Transitions in biological individuality and mesoscale structure
4:45–5:30	Ken Cheng (Macquarie University)	Basic units of action as basis for navigation
5:30	<i>End of Workshop</i>	