

# life's (re-)emergence

## Philosophy, Culture, and Politics

A one-day conference • Friday 23 May 2003 • Goldsmiths College • London  
Ian Gulland Lecture Theatre • 10am - 6pm

**Brian Massumi** University of Montreal

*Living Memory*

**John Mullarkey** University of Sunderland

*Bio-Aesthetics or the Memory of the Senses? Film-Philosophy Meets Vitalism*

**Luciana Parisi** University of East London

*Abstract Sex: Bio-Digital Machines and Symbiotic Micropolitics*

**Jamie King and Matthew Hyland**

*Mute/University of Minnesota and Wolverine*

*An Inherited Agenda for Annihilating Nothingness*

**Howard Caygill** Goldsmiths College

*Life and Energy*

**Scott Lash** Goldsmiths College

*Comments on 'Living Memory'*

**Suhail Malik** Goldsmiths College

*Comments on 'Living Memory'*

In recent years *life* has emerged as a concept of extraordinary scope, reaching into a wide variety of fields. In the tradition of continental philosophy, *life* as well as related concepts (virtuality, emergence, multiplicity, etc.) opens up novel ways in which crucial ontological problems can be addressed. In the social sciences, the concept of life has begun to redefine critical disciplines such as cultural studies. In more praxis-oriented fields such as management (complex adaptive systems), or computing (a-life), *life* is increasingly established as a central paradigm. Most visibly, though, it is the advances in the fields of biotechnology and biomedicine that has led to the problematisation of *life*.

Clearly, the conceptual terrains covered by the different notions of *life* diverge rather substantially. *Life*, it seems, does not always equal *life*. Or does it ever?

In the context of this conference, *life's (re-)emergence* is strongly linked to the comeback of Henri Bergson. His *philosophy of life* shall serve as point of departure for the exploration of *life's* importance for mind, individuality, and culture. It is our intention to provide a platform on which connections can be drawn among heterogeneous approaches to *life*. In doing this, we hope to be able to create a temporal life-machine that can be employed to explore new approaches to philosophy, culture and politics.

Attendance is free, but **please reserve seats in advance**. For reservations, conference abstracts, schedule, or any other information, email Maria Lakka <cup01ml@gold.ac.uk>, phone 077 21 76 21 31 or see [www.goldsmiths.ac.uk/cultural-studies](http://www.goldsmiths.ac.uk/cultural-studies).

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