

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.

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