

**Jacques Loeb Centre  
for the History and Philosophy  
of the Life Sciences**

**International Workshop**

**ORIGIN OF LIFE**  
**Scientific, Historical  
and Philosophical Perspectives**

W.A. Minkoff Senate Hall  
BGU Marcus Family Campus, Beer-Sheva

**13-14 June 2011**

For further information  
please contact: [jloebcentre@bgu.ac.il](mailto:jloebcentre@bgu.ac.il)

**PROGRAMME**





## Monday, 13 June 2011

**10:00**

Reception

**10:30-13:00**

Rivka Carmi, President  
Ben-Gurion University of the Negev  
Welcoming Remarks

Ute Deichmann, Director  
Jacques Loeb Centre  
Ben-Gurion University of the Negev  
*Origin of Life – From Spontaneous  
Generation to Asymmetric Catalysis:*  
Introductory Remarks

Ramy Brustein, Ben-Gurion University of  
the Negev  
*The Creation of the World – According to  
Science*

Antonio Lazcano, Universidad Nacional  
Autónoma de México  
*The Ghosts in the (Primitive) Soup: A  
Review of Some of the Debates that  
Shaped Early Discussions of the Origin  
and Nature of Life*

**13:00 – 14:00**

Lunch Break

**14:00 – 16:30**

Purificación López-García,  
The University of Paris  
*Metabolist versus Geneticist Views:  
Consequences for the Interpretation of  
the Tree of Life*

Aditya Pross, Ben-Gurion University of  
the Negev  
*Extending Darwinian Theory to the Origin  
of Life*

Dan Mishmar, Ben-Gurion University of  
the Negev  
*The Ancient Collaboration between the  
Mitochondria and the Nucleus: The  
Basis for Eukaryotic Life and Speciation?*

**16:30-17:00**

Coffee Break

**17:00-18:00**

Ofer Bar-Yosef, Harvard University  
*Lessons from the Archaeology of Human  
Evolution*

**18:00**

Musical Interlude, Reception, and Dinner  
(at the University) for Invited Speakers

## Tuesday, 14 June 2011

**10:00-13:00**

Michel Morange, Ecole normale  
supérieure, Paris  
*The Recent Evolution of the Question  
"What Is Life?"*

Raphael Falk, Hebrew University,  
Jerusalem  
*Muller and Life*

Siegfried Roth, University of Cologne  
*The Origin of Life and the Problem of  
Defining the Organism*

**13:00- 14:00**

Lunch Break

**14:00- 15:30**

Ulrich Charpa, Ruhr-University, Bochum  
*Origin of Life: Conceptual Considerations*

Ahuva Gaziel, Hebrew University,  
Jerusalem  
*Spontaneous Generation in Medieval  
Jewish Philosophy and Theology*

**15:30-15:45**

Coffee Break

**15:45-17:15**

Manfred Laubichler, Arizona State  
University  
*Developmental Evolution and Major  
Transitions: The Role of Developmental  
and Regulatory Processes in  
Understanding Major Transitions in the  
Evolution of Life*

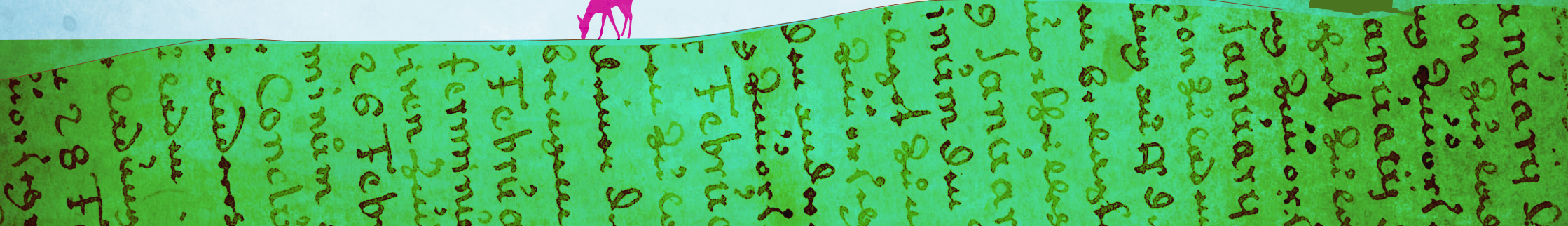
Omer Markovitch and Doron Lancet,  
Weizmann Institute of Science  
*Origin of Life: The FAT Story*

**19:30**

Dinner for invited speakers



# PROGRAMME





## ORIGIN OF LIFE

Hardly any topic in biology has changed its content so drastically as that of the origin of life. Its history includes claims of panspermia – the continuity of life in the universe – as well as assumptions, first put forward by Aristotle, and then repeated by the Church Fathers and by scientists until the end of the 19th century, that some forms of life are spontaneously generated from non-living material. In the 20th century, chemical, microbiological and molecular approaches prevailed in addressing the topic.

The workshop will focus on the origin of life on earth. It addresses the question from different scholarly and scientific perspectives. We expect this interdisciplinary discussion to also bring forward new insights regarding the question of what is life.

**The Jacques Loeb Centre for the History and Philosophy of the Life Sciences**, inaugurated on 4 March 2008, is engaged in advanced research covering relevant topics related to the life sciences. The Centre offers post-doctoral and graduate fellowships in the history and philosophy of modern biological, biochemical and medical sciences. It organises interdisciplinary seminars and international conferences.

The following international workshops have taken place:

- “Philosophies in Biology” (4-5 March 2008)
- “Darwinism and Functional Biology, Other Sciences, and the Humanities” (30 March-1 April 2009)
- “Understanding Scientific Progress: Developmental-Genetic Explanation of Evolution: Reflections on the History of Evolutionary Thought and Relations with Mechanistic Bioscience” (as a Batsheva Interdisciplinary Workshop) (8-9 June 2010)

Proceedings from the workshops were published as special editions/sections of:

- *History and Philosophy of the Life Sciences* 30 (2008)
- *Journal for General Philosophy of Science* 41 (2010)
- *Developmental Biology* (April 2011)

