

Working group

History and Philosophy of Modern Informational and Structural Biosciences

Group leader:

PD Dr. UTE DEICHMANN

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Ute Deichmann, Dr. rer. nat. habil and apl. Professor at the University of Cologne, Institute of Genetics; adjunct full professor at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel and director of the Jacques Loeb Centre for the History and Philosophy of the Life Sciences (<http://in.bgu.ac.il/en/loeb/Pages/default.aspx>).

Prizes: 1996-97 Edelstein International Fellow in the History of Chemical Sciences and Technologies, Philadelphia and Jerusalem, Ladislaus Laszt Award of Ben Gurion University of the Negev (1995), Gmelin Beilstein Medal of the German Chemical Society (2005), Outstanding Paper Award from the Division of the History of Chemistry of the American Chemical Society for "'Molecular' versus 'Colloidal': Controversies in Biology and Biochemistry, 1900-1940" (2011).

Research

1. Origin of and change to fundamental concepts in modern informational and structural biology (e.g. biological specificity, information, hierarchy, genomic regulation, epigenetics).
2. Researchers' philosophies and epistemologies in modern biology, with special emphasis on cell theory, genetics, development, synthetic biology, and genomics.
3. Oral history project: Conversations with pioneers of modern informational and structural biology on science, scientists, and philosophy.
4. Beginnings and development of the Israeli-German science

collaboration: Political and scientific rationales, collaborative research, different research traditions and complementary research in the two countries.

Recent publications

U. Deichmann. 2016. The origin and evolution of a fashionable topic, *Developmental Biology* 416: 249-254

U. Deichmann. 2016. [Why epigenetics is not a vindication of Lamarckism – and why that matters](#). *Studies in History and Philosophy of Biological and Biomedical Sciences* 57: 80-82.

U. Deichmann. 2016. The Beginnings of Israeli-German Collaborations in the Sciences: Motives, Scientific Benefits, Hidden Agendas. *Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities. Proceedings - Bol. IX, No. 3; pp. 35-86.*

U. Deichmann. 2016. Review of: Michael Yudell, *Race Unmasked: Biology and Race in the 20th Century*, New York 2014: Columbia University Press, and Robert Wald Sussman, *The Myth of Race: The Troubling Persistence of an Unscientific Idea*, Cambridge, MA 2014: Harvard University Press, *ISIS* June 2016.

U. Deichmann. 2015. Collaborations between Israel and Germany in Chemistry and the other Sciences - a Sign of Normalization? *Israel Journal of Chemistry* 55: 1181-1218.

U. Deichmann. 2015. Chromatin. Its history, current research, and the seminal researchers and their philosophy. *Perspectives in Biology and Medicine* 58: 143–164.