

INTERDISCIPLINARY READING GROUP FOR PHD STUDENTS AND OTHERS

EVERYONE FLOWS

A PROCESS PHILOSOPHY

OF HUMAN LIFE

Do we live in a world of things — stable, autonomous, sharply bounded — or in a world of processes, where every stability is temporary and nothing is fully separable from what surrounds it?

Having read Everything Flows last semester, we now turn to Dupré's new book, Everyone Flows, which pushes the processual view further into distinctively human territory. Dupré builds again on the claim that living beings are processes rather than things, developed through two central cases: organisms and lineages. Lineages are the processes in which evolution occurs; they generate organisms, while organisms in turn compose them. Dupré develops this through the pervasiveness of symbiosis and through cases, such as the pregnant mammal, that make it hard to say where one organism ends and another begins. The book then asks what follows for us. Our lineage is unusual in its sociality and behavioural plasticity, which together allow a fine-grained division of labour, and in the sheer complexity of the niche we have built for ourselves. Taking that seriously, Dupré argues, changes how we should think about personal identity, the prospect of indefinite life extension, human nature, classifications such as race and gender, and freedom of the will. The conclusions are often surprising and sometimes quite radical.

We will read the whole book, one chapter per session. No background in philosophy of biology is needed, but participants are expected to have read the respective chapter beforehand. Our reading group is primarily dedicated to PhD students, but postdocs and undergraduates from all disciplines are also very welcome!

We read

DUPRÉ, JOHN. 2025. EVERYONE FLOWS: A PROCESS PHILOSOPHY OF HUMAN LIFE. OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS.

NDEF04/346 & ONLINE

WEDNESDAYS, 16:00-17:30

07.10.26

Introduction & Chapter 1:
Why Life is All Process

04.11.26

Chapter 2: Evolution and
Lineages

02.12.26

Chapter 3: Humans and Their
Fellow Travellers

13.01.27

Chapter 4: Personal Identity

03.02.27

Chapter 5: Human Nature and
Human Kinds

03.03.27

Chapter 6: Free Will

If this sounds interesting to you: Scan the QR Code for Moodle.

1 CP for RUB Research School Certificates can be obtained

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PASSWORD: THEORY