

“Engaging with the Microbiome: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on the Study of Human-Microbial Life”

April 24-25, Université Laval

Over the past thirty years, research on the microbiome – i.e., the genetic material of the entire collection of microorganisms living in a given habitat – has significantly altered our understanding of human-microbe dynamics, while also impacting our view of health and disease.

Ranging from attention to biological evolution to the history of enzyme commercialization, and from conflictual portrayals of infectious diseases to more ecological and processual approaches of the human-microbe relations, microbiome studies sit at the interface of social, cultural, political, economic, and biological phenomena. The whole of human history, indeed, is connected by the global circulation and evolution of microbes in surprising ways that can only be uncovered through collaborative studies across disciplines.

It is thus unsurprising that microbiome research in the life sciences has been the focus of recent works in medical and environmental humanities, anthropology as well as in the philosophy of biology and the social history of science, technology, and medicine. However, few of these studies have brought together experts actively engaged in biomedical research and scholars in the social sciences and humanities. This two-day workshop aims to do just that: it will convene experts working on human and microbial phenomena from a diversity of perspectives – biology, microbiology, history and philosophy of the life sciences, medical anthropology, sociology of science – with a view to fostering innovative and international collaborations across disciplinary boundaries.

This interdisciplinary forum held at Université Laval in Quebec City will showcase the value of considering such interdisciplinary collaborations and illustrate the importance for institutions to create a milieu that make such collaborations possible.

A selection of papers will be presented for a special issue to *BioEssays*.

Venue:

**Centre Nutrition, santé et société (NUTRISS)
Université Laval
Pavillon des services
2440, Boulevard Hochelaga
Québec (Que)
G1V 0A6**



Contact : pierre-olivier.methot@fp.ulaval.ca
stephanie.lloyd@ant.ulaval.ca

PROGRAMME

24 April (Thursday)

15h00

Welcome

Benoit Lamarche (Director of the Centre NUTRISS)

15h15

“A Busy World Within Our Gut”

Frédéric Raymond (Laval)

16h00-17h15

“Consequences of the Perturbed Early Life Microbiome and Finding Solutions”

Keynote lecture by Martin J. Blaser (Rutgers)

Chair: Sylvain Moineau (Laval)

17h15-18h30

Cocktail & Poster Session by students in philosophy and anthropology

25 April (Friday)

8h45-9h00

Coffee

9h00-9h45

Louis-Patrick Haraoui (Sherbrooke)

“The Rights of Microbes and The Rights to Microbes”

9h45-11h00

“Rethinking One Health: Mapping Microbial Pathways from the Soil to Human Health”

Andréa Fernández Díaz (Bordeaux/Sherbrooke)

10h30

Coffee break

11h00-12h15

“Pervasive Changes of the Human Microbiome by Medication Programs in Remote Traditional Villages”

Keynote lecture by Maria Gloria Dominguez-Bello (Rutgers)

Chair: Louis-Patrick Haraoui (Sherbrooke)

12h30

Lunch (catered for speakers)

13h45-14h30

“Human-Microbe Symbiosis: Transdisciplinary Perspectives for Health in the Ecocene”

Béatrice de Montera (Lyon/INRAE), Laurence Terzan (EPHE/Paris) & Joël Doré (Paris/INRAE)

14h30-15h15

“From Pathogenic Germs to Microbial Communities: Thinking About the Human-Microbe Relation in the *Longue Durée*”

Pierre-Olivier Méthot (Laval)

15h15

Coffee break

15h30-16h45

“Compartmentalization In/As Theory: Boundedness, Integrity, and Organization in Microbiome and Mitochondria Science and Ethics”

Keynote lecture by Hannah Landecker (UCLA)

Chair: Stephanie Lloyd (Laval)

16h45-17h00

Closing Remarks

Pierre-Olivier Méthot, Louis-Patrick Haraoui & Stephanie Lloyd