

**Workshop 3 (Michel Morange / Smaïl Bouaziz): Plurality of explanatory schemes in medicine**

The occurrence of competing explanations, and the way this competition is solved, has been extensively studied by philosophers of science. Far less studied have been the cases when the different explanations are not competing but rather coexisting, the reason being that there are of a different type. The coexistence of evolutionary and functional explanations in biology has been outlined by Ernst Mayr, but it is only an example of a far more general phenomenon. Such a coexistence is particularly obvious in medicine, and many of the contributions address this plurality of explanations, in the past or in the present.

The occurrence of this plurality of explanatory types raises different philosophical issues. How many different types do exist? Is the origin of this plurality epistemic or ontological? What is the relation between the occurrence of different explanatory types, and the existence of different disciplines? How long can this coexistence persist, and how does it disappear?