



EPIGENESIS

A NEW PARADIGM FOR PHILOSOPHY?

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Theories of epigenesis have long stood in opposition to the idea of preformation, the two comprising contrasting interpretations of what's involved in the development of individual organisms. Where preformationist theories have tended to assert a sort of biological pre-determinism, thinkers of epigenesis, from Aristotle onwards, have focused on the various, more open-ended processes through which organisms take on form and organisation, and through which their fates are determined, over time. The recent work of the philosopher Catherine Malabou has continued her widely influential investigations into the intersections of philosophy, psychoanalysis, and the biological sciences, bringing the question of epigenesis to the heart of the modern European intellectual tradition. In works that offer this notion as critical to the futures of both Kantian critical philosophy and Freudian psychoanalytic thought, and as central to an understanding of intelligence, Malabou has traced the contours of an “epigenetic paradigm of rationality” that would respond to developments in contemporary biology. Join us for a lecture by Catherine Malabou, a series of presentations, and a roundtable conversation that will take up these topics from a variety of angles, exploring the far-reaching implications of epigenesis and epigenetics for contemporary thought.

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