I DIALOGHI DI SAN GIORGIO

WHAT'S THE BODY OF THE BODY POLITIC?
Sovereignty, Identity, Ecology

FONDAZIONE GIORGIO CINI

Isola di San Giorgio Maggiore, Venezia

September 12 – 15, 2017

Biographies and Bibliographies of Participants

Didier Debaise

Scott F. Gilbert

Deborah M. Gordon

Bruno Latour

Timothy Lenton

Michael Lynch

Kyle McGee

Timothy Michell

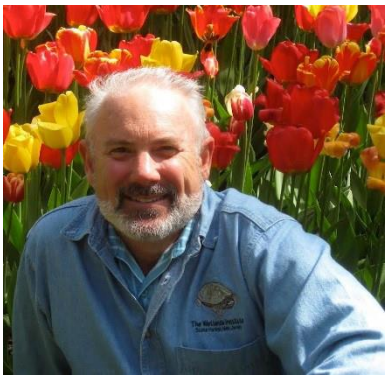
Simon Schaffer

Isabelle Stengers

Shirley C. Strum

David Western

Didier Debaise is a permanent researcher at the Fonds National de la Recherche Scientifique (FNRS) and the director of the Center of Philosophy at Free University of Brussels (ULB) where he teaches contemporary philosophy. He is the co-founder, with I. Stengers, of the Groupe d'études constructivistes (Geco). His main areas of research are contemporary forms of speculative philosophy, theories of events, and links between American pragmatism and the French contemporary philosophy. He is director of a collection in *Presses du réel*, member of the editorial board of the journal *Multitudes* and *Inflexions*. He wrote three books on Whitehead's philosophy (*Un empirisme spéculatif, Le vocabulaire de Whitehead* and *L'appât des possibles*), edited volumes on pragmatism (*Vie et experimentation*), on the history of contemporary metaphysics (*Philosophie des possessions*), and he wrote numerous papers on Bergson, Tarde, Souriau, Simondon, and Deleuze. Two of his books will appears in English in September: *Nature as Event* (Duke University Press) and *A Speculative Empiricism* (Edinburgh University Press). He is currently working on a new book *Pragmatique de la terre.*



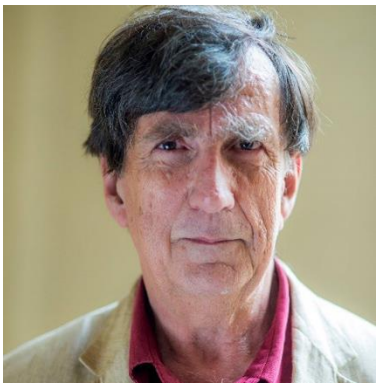
Scott F. Gilbert is the Howard A. Schneiderman Professor of Biology (*emeritus*) at Swarthmore College, where he has taught developmental genetics, embryology, and the history and critiques of biology. He is also a Finland Distinguished Professor at the University of Helsinki. He received his B.A. in both biology and religion from Wesleyan University (1971), and he earned his PhD in biology from the pediatric genetics laboratory of Dr. Barbara Migeon at the Johns Hopkins University (1976). His M.A. in the history of science, also from The Johns Hopkins University, was done under the supervision of Dr. Donna Haraway. He pursued postdoctoral research at the University of Wisconsin in the laboratories of Dr. Masayasu Nomura (molecular biology) and Dr. Robert Auerbach (developmental immunology). He is married to Anne M. Raunio, an obstetrician-gynecologist, and they have three children.

Scott currently has three co-authored books in print: (1) *Developmental Biology* (now in its eleventh edition) which is one of the most widely used textbook in the field; (2) the new textbook, *Ecological Developmental Biology*, which is attempting to help construct a new area of biological science by bringing together aspects of embryology, medical physiology, ecology, and evolution; and (3) *Fear, Wonder, and Science in the Age of Reproductive Biotechnology*, coming out in July, 2017, a science trade-book concerning both the scientific and emotional aspects of reproductive biotechnology.

Scott's biological research has two foci. The first concerns how changes in developmental mechanisms can generate evolutionary novelty. Studying "the arrival of the fittest," he literally investigates how the turtle gets its shell. The second focus concerns the integration of symbionts into a holobiont, and how the symbiotic microbes and host cells facilitate and scaffold each other's development, truly "becoming with the other." He and his co-worker, Lynn Chiu, have recently attempted to redefine childbirth as the continuity of biological community rather than the generation of a new individual. Scott has received several awards for his work in evolutionary developmental biology, including the Medal of François I from the Collège de France and the Kowalevsky Prize in Evolutionary Developmental

Biology. He received the first Viktor Hamburger Award for education from the Society for Developmental Biology.
Scott's work in the history and philosophy of biology focuses on the interactions between embryology and genetics. This includes the new perspectives coming from symbionts as developmental and genetic partners. He has been the coordinator of the Swarthmore Biology and Gender Study Group, and he has integrated feminist, philosophical, and economic critiques into his research papers and scientific textbooks. His work has been called "hogwash" by Michael Ruse, and it had been singled out for several pages of criticism by Gross and Levitt. He also has written on body politic metaphors, embryology and art, genetic determinism in the abortion debate, the possible alliances of biology and religion, and (with philologist Ziony Zevit) the identity of the Adamic bone said to have generated Eve. In December, 2016, he taught developmental biology to His Holiness, the Dalai Lama.

Deborah M. Gordon is a Professor in the Department of Biology at Stanford University.
She received her PhD from Duke University, then did postdoctoral research in the Harvard Society of Fellows, at Oxford University, and the Centre for Population Biology at Silwood Park, University of London, and joined the faculty at Stanford in 1991.
Prof. Gordon's lab group studies the collective regulation of behavior and collective identity, and how collective behavior functions ecologically. She discovered that ants use the rate of simple olfactory contacts to decide what task to perform, and that feedback based on such contacts regulates colony activity such as foraging. A unique long-term study tracking a population of harvester ant colonies in the desert of the southwestern US for more than 25 years shows how evolution is currently shaping collective behavior in a natural population. Other projects include studies of the invasive Argentine ant in northern California, and of ant-plant mutualisms and the trail networks of arboreal ants in the tropical forest of Mexico.
She is the author of two books, *Ants at Work* (Norton 2000) and *Ant Encounters: Interaction Networks and Colony Behavior* (Primers in Complex Systems, Princeton University Press, 2010). Links to articles and talks for the general public are on the home page, and links to scholarly articles are on the publications page, She is the author of two books, *Ants at Work* (Norton 2000) and *Ant Encounters: Interaction Networks and Colony Behavior* (Primers in Complex Systems, Princeton University Press, 2010). Links to articles and talks for the general public are on the home page and links to scholarly articles are on the publications page of http://www.stanford.edu/~dmgordon/.



Bruno Latour is professor emeritus at the médialab of Sciences Po Paris. He has written on the sociology and anthropology of science as well as in political ecology. His latest book with Polity is *Facing Gaia -Eight Lectures on the New Climatic Regime*.

Timothy Lenton is Professor and Chair in Earth System Science and Climate Change at the University of Exeter and academic lead for the new Global Systems Institute. He researches the 'Earth System' – the complex web of biological, geochemical and physical processes that has shaped the chemical composition of the atmosphere and oceans, and the climate of Earth, over its entire history.

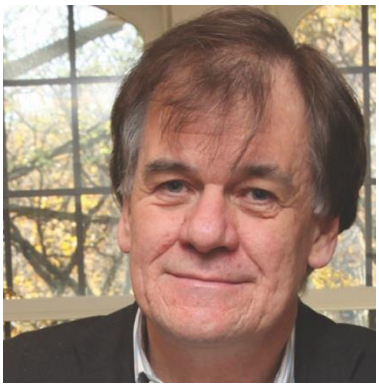
Having studied Natural Sciences as an undergraduate at the University of Cambridge Tim went on to PhD studies at the University of East Anglia focusing on what regulates the nutrient balance of the ocean and the oxygen content of the atmosphere. He collaborated extensively with James Lovelock in the development of the Gaia theory and Daisyworld models.

Since joining the University of Exeter in 2011 his primary research focus has been on the coupled evolution of life and the planet, on climate change tipping points and early warning methods, and on developing and evolutionary ecosystem model focusing on the marine microbial biosphere. He is particularly interested in how life has reshaped the planet in the past, and what lessons we can draw from this as we proceed to reshape the planet now. These topics are covered in his books, 'Earth System Science: A Very Short Introduction' (OUP 2016) and with Andrew Watson, 'Revolutions that made the Earth' (OUP, 2011).

Tim's work identifying the tipping elements in the climate system won the Times Higher Education Award for Research Project of the Year 2008. He has also received a Philip Leverhulme Prize 2004, a European Geosciences Union Outstanding Young Scientist Award 2006, the British Association Charles Lyell Award Lecture 2006 and the Geological Society of London William Smith Fund 2008. Tim is a Fellow of the Linnean Society, the Geological Society and the Society of Biology and he holds a Royal Society Wolfson Research Merit Award (2013).

Michael Lynch is Professor and Acting Chair (Fall 2017) in the Department of Science & Technology Studies at Cornell University. He studies practical action, visual representation, and discursive interaction in research laboratories, clinical settings, and legal tribunals. His first book, *Art and Artifact in Laboratory Science* was among the first wave of laboratory ethnographies, and his *Scientific Practice & Ordinary Action* was a critical overview of research in science studies and ethnomethodology. His more recent book, *Truth Machine: The Contentious History of DNA Fingerprinting* (with Simon Cole, Ruth McNally & Kathleen Jordan) examines the interplay between law and science in criminal cases involving DNA evidence. He was Editor of *Social Studies of Science* from 2002 until 2012, and he was President of the Society for Social Studies of Science in 2007-2009. He received the 2015 John Desmond Bernal Prize, a career award given annually by the Society for Social Studies of Science.

Kyle McGee practices law in the USA representing consumers, workers, patients, pension and retirement funds, and others subject to massively asymmetrical relations with corporate entities. Frequently acting as a 'private attorney general' pursuing fraud, deceptive trade practices, breaches of fiduciary duties, corporate mismanagement, and anti-competitive conduct, among other things, he has contributed to the recovery of billions of ill-gotten dollars from large companies and their managers, including investment banks, automobile manufacturers, pharmaceutical companies, accounting firms, insurance companies, and oil and gas companies. He is also the author of two books (*The Normativity of Networks*, Routledge 2013; *Heathen Earth*, Punctum 2017), editor of two essay collections (*Deleuze & Law*, Edinburgh 2012; *Latour & the Passage of Law*, Edinburgh 2015), and has published numerous articles in law and philosophy journals (including Law, Culture & the Humanities, Law & Literature, Cardozo Law Review, Jurimetrics, Philosophy & Social Criticism, Radical Philosophy), and contributed chapters to numerous edited volumes on topics in jurisprudence, philosophy, and politics. His current research interests include law and ecology; the relationship of legal theory and socio-legal studies to the tradition of critical theory; the anthropology of populism; and the practical metalanguages of law, among other things.



Timothy Michell is a political theorist and historian specializing in the modern Arab world, the history of energy, and political economy. Educated at Queens' College, Cambridge, and Princeton University, he is the William B. Ransford Professor of Middle Eastern Studies at Columbia University, where he also holds an appointment in the School of International and Public Affairs. His books include *Colonising Egypt*, *Questions of Modernity, Rule of Experts: Egypt, Technopolitics, Modernity*, and *Carbon Democracy: Political Power in the Age of Oil*.

Simon Schaffer is Professor of History of Science at the University of Cambridge. He coauthored *Leviathan and the air pump* (Princeton, second edition 2011) and recently published *La fabrique des sciences modernes* (Seuil, 2014). He has coedited *Material cultures of enlightened arts and sciences* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2016); *Political histories of technoscience* (Radical History Review, 2017); and, with Pasquale Gagliardi and John Tresch, *Aesthetics of universal knowledge* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2017). In 2013 he was awarded the Sarton medal by the History of Science Society and in 2015 the Caird Medal by the National Maritime Museum.

Isabelle Stengers is professor of the Université Libre de Bruxelles. After graduating in chemistry she has turned to philosophy, and as a doctoral student she has worked in Ilya Prigogine physical chemistry department. Her first work with Prigogine and her dissertation were about the contrast between the specific conceptual inventiveness of physics and its claim to propose a general world view. This has led her to develop a critique of the model of objectivity that mimics theoretico-experimental sciences and silences the diverging multiplicity of scientific practices. In this perspective she has proposed, as a challenge inseparably political and cultural, the concept of an active ecology of practices, embedded within a democratic, demanding environment. Her work as a philosopher defends the possibility of a speculative, adventurous constructivism, which she relates to the philosophy of Gilles Deleuze, Alfred North Whitehead and William James as well as with the anthropology of Bruno Latour and the SF thinking adventure of Donna Haraway.
Among the books, have been published in English translation; *Order out of Chaos* with Ilya Prigogine, *The Invention of Modern Science*, *Capitalist Sorcery : Breaking the Spell* with Philippe Pignarre, *Cosmopolitics I and II*, *Thinking with Whitehead* and *Women Who Make a Fuss* with Vinciane Despret, *In Catastrophic Times. Resisting the Coming Barbarism; Another Science is Possible* (to appear).

Shirley C. Strum is a Professor of Anthropology at the University of California, San Diego, and the Director of the Uaso Ngiro Baboon Project (UNBP) in Kenya. Strum has spent over 44 years studying wild baboons in Kenya. During that time, she has pioneered new ideas about baboons, about society and about evolution, the first suggesting that baboon society is not based on male aggression and dominance but that both males and females have effective non-aggressive alternatives. These "social strategies of competition and defense" rely on social relationships that create a "social contract" based on social sophistication, social intelligence, and collaboration (1972-1979). Tracking the baboons through ecological and social challenges, she uncovered an unknown social complexity (1972-1979) as well as documenting the evolution of baboon hunting behavior (1972-1974), the development of crop-raiding behavior (1979-1984), the successful translocation of 3 troops of baboons and documenting the social and ecological adaptation of the translocated baboons to new, harsher environment (1984-2004). Her recent study of the invasion of an alien cactus species (*Opuntia stricta*) provided the first ecological evidence for the complexity of the process. She continues to study the humanized landscape and its significance for baboon adaptation, particularly socialness (2005-present).

Strum's interest in the socio-ecological process of adaptation now extends to the impact of the Anthropocene which is only the latest in a series of environmental perturbations that show that the social cannot be separated from the ecological. Strum is using the intensive and extensive data on changing environments and the impact on baboon diet, condition, reproduction, and sociality to build a new integrated baboon socio-ecology.

A fruitful collaboration with Bruno Latour in the 1980's developed the contrast between social complexity in baboons and social complication in humans focusing on the role of negotiation in the performance of society. Tracking baboon social complexity over decades demonstrates that baboons reach a social complexity glass ceiling when they build their society. Still, the existence of social complexity stops even baboon individuals and groups from making simple evolutionary tradeoffs of costs and benefits. Furthermore, little twists of fate change the group's trajectory making adaptation not a tight evolutionary fit between behavior, society and ecology; rather baboons suggest that evolutionary processes have a great deal of tolerance and slippage.

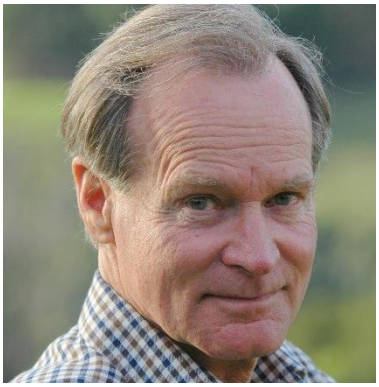
The current baboon research has two tracks. The first set of studies explores how socio-ecological complexity influences individual behaviors and how group level phenomena emerge. The second track focuses on conservation using science to understand specific problems as well as to create innovative solutions. UNBP was the first primate project (1981) to use para-behaviorists and para-ecologists. The field staff of 12 Kenyans currently follows 5 troops of baboons collecting demographic, ranging, feeding, social, conflict and other data.

One of the troops included in this study, the Pumphouse Gang has been featured in numerous award winning documentaries including David Attenborough's *Life of Primates* and the Discovery Channel's *Baboon Tales.* Strum is widely published in the academic literature, and authored a well-regarded popular book *Almost Human: a journey into the world of baboons* (University of Chicago Press, 1987/2001). She is currently working on another book entitled *Darwin's Monkey Puzzle: a baboon's eye view of life and evolution.*

Additional References for Venice

1975 "Primate predation: Interim report on the development of a tradition in a troop of olive baboons." *Science* 187: 755-757.

1982 "Agonistic dominance in male baboons: an alternative view." *International Journal of Primatology* 3*:* 175-202.
1983 "Why males use infants." In *Primate Paternalism*, D. Taub ed., New York: Van Nostrand Reinhold, 146-185.
1983 "Baboon cues for eating meat." *Journal of Human Evolution* 12: 327-336.
1983 "Use of females by male olive baboons." *American Journal of Primatology* 5: 93-109.
1983 "Baboon cues for eating meat." *Journal of Human Evolution* 12: 327-336.
1986 B. Latour and Strum, S. C., "Human social origins: please tell us another story." *Journal of Social and Biological Structures* 9: 169-187.
1987/2001 *Almost Human: a journey into the world of baboons.* Second edition. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 308pp (with a new introduction and epilogue).
1987 Strum, S. C. and B. Latour, "Redefining the social link: from baboons to humans." *Social Science Information* 26: 783-802.
1987 "A role for long-term primate field research in source countries." In *Primate Ecology and Conservation: Proceedings of the Tenth Congress of Primatology* Vol. 2*,* J. Else and P. Lee, eds., Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 215-220.
1987 "Activist conservation--the human factor in primate conservation in source Countries." In *Primate Ecology and Conservation: Proceedings of the Tenth Congress of Primatology* Vol. 2, J. Else and P. Lee, eds., Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 369-382.
1987 Strum, S.C. and W. Mitchell, "Baboon models and muddles." In *The Evolution of Human Behavior: Primate Models*. W. Kinsey, ed., New York: SUNY Press, 87-104.
1987 Strum, S. C. and C. H. Southwick, "Translocation of primates." In *Primates: The road to self-sustaining populations.* K. Benirschke, ed., New York: Springer-Verlag, 949-958.
1987 Strum, S. C. and B. Latour, "Redefining the social link: from baboons to humans." *Social Science Information* 26: 783-802.
1994 "La société sans culture matérielle." In *Intelligence Sociale des Technique*, Bruno Latour and Pierre Lemonnier, eds. Paris: Decouverte, 27-44.
1997 Strum, S.C., D. Forster, and E. Hutchins, "Why Machiavellian intelligence may not be Machiavellian." In *Machiavellian Intelligence* II. A. Whiten and R. Byrne, eds., Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 50-85.
1997 Strum, S.C., D. Forster, and E. Hutchins, "Why Machiavellian intelligence may not be Machiavellian." In *Machiavellian Intelligence* II*.* A. Whiten and R. Byrne, eds., Cambridge: Cambridge
1999 Strum, S.C., D. Lindburg and D. Hamburg, *The New Physical Anthropology: science, humanism and critical reflection,* New Jersey: Prentice-Hall, 285 pages.
2001 Strum, S.C. and D. Forster, "Nonmaterial Artifacts: the natural history of artifacts and mind." In *In the Mind's Eye.* April Nowell, ed., Ann Arbor: International Monographs in Prehistory, 63-82.
2005 "Measuring success in primate translocation: a baboon case study." *American Journal of Primatology*, 65: 117-140.
2010 Silk, Joan B. and Shirley C. Strum, "Maternal condition does not influence birth sex ratios in anubis baboons (*Papio anubis)*." PLoS One, 5(9): e12750. DOI: 10.1371/journal.pone.0012750.
2014 Strum, S.C. and D.L. Manzolillo Nightingale, "Baboon ecotourism in the larger context." In *Primate Focused Tourism.* A. Russon and J. Wallis, eds., Cambridge UK: Cambridge University Press, 155-176.



David Western is chairman of the African Conservation Centre, Nairobi. He began research into savannas ecosystems at Amboseli in 1967, looking at the interactions of humans and wildlife. His work, unbroken since then, has served as a barometer of changes in the savannas and a test of conservation solutions based on the coexistence of people and wildlife.

Western directed Wildlife Conservation Society programs internationally, established Kenya's Wildlife Planning Unit, chaired the African Elephant and Rhino Specialist Group, and was founding president of The International Ecotourism Society, chairman of the Wildlife Clubs of Kenya, director of Kenya Wildlife Service and founder of the African Conservation Centre in Nairobi. He is an adjunct professor in Biology at the University of California, San Diego.

Western's publications include *Conservation for the Twenty-first Century, In the Dust of Kilimanjaro,* and *Natural Connections: Perspectives in Community-based Conservation.* He served on a government task force redrafting environmental legislation in line with the new Constitution of Kenya 2010 and is chief editor of the upcoming book, *Kenya's Natural Capital: A Biodiversity Atlas*. He is presently directing conservation and research projects under the African Conservation Center. Western received the World Ecology Award for 2010 and the 2012 Life-time Achievement Award for Ecotourism.