

SEBASTIAN SANDER-OEST

University of Oslo

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Oslo, Norway, 0366.

AoS: Philosophy of Biochemistry, Philosophy of Complexity, Philosophy of Biology.

AoC: Epistemology, Philosophy of Science, Metaphysics, Philosophy of Cognition.

EDUCATION

2024 – **Doctoral Research Fellow, University of Oslo, Assembling Life**
Supervisor: Dr. Gry Oftedal

2023 **Master of Arts in Philosophy, Aarhus University**
Focus: Epistemology, Metaphysics & Cognition
Thesis: 'Life-mind continuity in cognitive science'
Advisor: Prof. Johanna Seibt

2021 **Nordplus exchange at University of Oslo**
Focus: Ethics and Metaphysics

2020 **Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy, Aarhus University**

EMPLOYMENT

2021-22 **Student Mentor**
Aarhus University, The Counseling and Support Center (RSC)
I coached students with learning difficulties in organizing and planning their studies.

2018-19 **Teaching Assistant**
Aarhus University, Department of Philosophy and History of Ideas
I assisted in teaching two courses in the history of philosophy, managed a class and prepared questions and discussions for central texts.

VISITING APPOINTMENTS

2025 **Affiliate Researcher**
The Francis Crick Institute, Theoretical Biology Laboratory, London
April- June

2025 **Visiting Research Fellow**
Egenis, Centre for the Study of the Life Science, University of Exeter

April- June

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

- 2024 **7th European Advanced Summer School for the Philosophy of Life Sciences**
Konrad Lorenz Institute for Evolution and Cognition Research (KLI)
- 2024 **PhilInBioMed Summer School**
ImmunoConcept, University of Bordeaux
- 2020–24 **Board President**
FILIBID: Filosofisk Alumne Forening
Planned the annual student and faculty gathering ‘Filosofisk Sammenkomst’ for the Department of Philosophy at Aarhus University.
- 2018–20 **Board Member**
Studerterkredsen Aarhus
Organized lectures for Danish researchers at Aarhus University.
- 2017–20 **Board President**
Faglig Weekend
Organized the annual research conference for the Department of Philosophy and History of Ideas at Aarhus University.
- 2016–19 **Board President**
Filosofisk Studenterkollektivium
Organized weekly student presentations and discussion forums for students of philosophy and history of ideas.

PUBLICATIONS

Refereed Journal Articles:

Sander-Oest, S. (2026). A processual account of scientific definitions. *European Journal for Philosophy of Science*, 16(3), 68. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s13194-026-00769-2>

Sander-Oest, S. (2026). Spontaneous contexts: Explanatory diversity in biological self-assembly. *Studies in History and Philosophy of Science*, 118, 102174.
<https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1016/j.shpsa.2026.102174>

Oest, S. (2024). Life-mind continuity: untangling categorical, extensional, and systematic aspects. *Synthese*. ISSN 0039-7857. 203(6). doi: 10.1007/s11229-024-04645-5.

Public Dissemination:

“Passiv, Aktiv og Levende Materie”, *Tidskriftet Paradoks*, 13. September 2024,
(<https://paradoks.nu/2024/09/13/passiv-aktiv-og-levende-materialitet/>)

CONFERENCE ACTIVITY^{*†‡}

2025 **Biological Functions do not explain Biological Normativity.**^{†‡*}

- Presentation at the Functionalism in Philosophy of Science workshop, Center for the Philosophy of Science, University of Oslo, Oslo, Norway. 26th November 2025

2025 **Towards a Unified Account of Pattern Formation. Presentation at the Biannual***

- European Society of Philosophy of Science (EPSA) conference 2025. Groningen, Netherlands. 28th August 2025

2025 **A Short History of Self-Assembly*.**

- Presentation at the Biannual International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology (ISHPSSB) conference 2025, Porto, Portugal. 25th July, 2025

2025 **Towards a Unified Account of Pattern Formation**[‡].

- Presentation at The Philosophical Seminar Series, EGENIS, the center for life-sciences, Exeter, England. 25th of June 2025

2024 **Possible Origin of Division of Labor in Multicellular Organisms. An Agent-Based Model Simulation.*** by Tianqin Ren§, Claudia Gadaleta§, Sebastian Sander Oest§, Jokubas Janusauskas, Claudio Davini

- Poster presentation w/ at *the Biannual Philosophy of Science Association*, New Orleans, November 16th, 2024.

2024 **On the Edge of the Paradigm: How do epistemic structure influence illness understanding in functional somatic disorders?*** by Cecilia Jespersen§, Sebastian Sander Oest, Aida Andersen, Lise Gormsen, Maria Kleinstaueber, Heidi F. Pedersen & Eileen Connely

- Co-authored poster presentation at *The European Association of Phenomenology, Psychopathology and Psychotherapy Annual Conference*, Copenhagen, September 27th, 2024.

2024 **What is Self-Assembly? Towards a non-exclusive definition**^{†‡}.

- Invited presentation for the AssemblingLife Kickoff Workshop, University of Oslo, June 10th, 2024

* = Peer-reviewed.

† = Hosted at home institution

‡ = Invited

Curriculum Vitae

- 2024 **What is the “Self” in Self-assembly? On the explanatory connection between spontaneity and context***
- Poster presentation at *Understanding Life in a Changing Planet conference*, Egenis, University of Exeter, April 19th, 2024.
- 2022 **A Dynamic Solution to the Carbon-Copier Problem**
- *FISK: Filosofisk og Idehistorisk Studenterkollektivum*, Aarhus University, October 7th, 2022.
- 2022 **Representation Wars: The battleground is metaphysics**
- *M.A. student conference in philosophy*, Aarhus University, Aarhus University, May 16th, 2022.
- 2020 **Why is Everything so difficult? Metaphysical issues with universal quantification**
- *M.A. student conference in philosophy*, Aarhus University, December 8 2020
- 2019 **Om muligheden for metafysik: en evaluering af Markus Gabriels no-world view**
- *FISK: Filosofisk og Idehistorisk Studenterkollektivum*, Aarhus University, March 15, 2019

CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS ORGANIZED:

- 2026 *Synthesizing Autonomy and New Mechanism: A Novel Third Way?* ISHPSSB off-year workshop. Co-organizer w/ Dr. Andrew Bollhagen
- 2025 *ScaM: workshop on scales and measurement in science*, UiO. Co-organizer w/ Dr. Francesca Bellazzi & Dr. Yael Friedman
- 2024 *CPS Lunch Forum w/ Lauren Ross*, Main organizer, UiO, September 2nd
- 2020 *Intet*, Co-organizer, Studenterkredsens sommermøde, Jyderup Højskole, July 19-25
- 2019 *Fællesskab og en Verden i Brand*, Co-organizer, Faglig Weekend, Himmerlandsgården, April 5-7
- 2018 *Sandhed*, Co-organizer, Faglig Weekend, Himmerlandsgården, April 13-15
- 2017 *Universality og Global Idehistorie*, Co-organizer, Faglig Weekend, Himmerlandsgården, April 28-30

AWARDS

Travel grant awarded by Science Studies Colloquium, University of Oslo, 2026. Worth: 28.000 NOK

Curriculum Vitae

Grant for longer research stay awarded by University of Oslo, Humanistic Faculty, 2025. Worth: 45.000 NOK

“Most promising theater-production” award for play “Mellem Vægge” at Quonga Theater Festival, Aarhus, 2018. Worth: 10.000 DKK

“Most promising theater-production” award for play “Hvor er Bjørn?” at Quonga Theater Festival, Aarhus, 2017. Worth: 10.000 DKK

LANGUAGES

Danish: Native proficiency

English: Professional proficiency

Ancient Greek: Limited working proficiency

Latin: Limited working proficiency

German: Limited working proficiency

Czech: Elementary proficiency