



## THE KLIFE NEWSLETTER - INAUGURAL ISSUE

### Welcome to the inaugural issue of The KLife Newsletter!

In a world where information, news, and events frantically appear and disappear, The KLife Newsletter provides an opportunity to recollect and reflect. We would like to share with you ideas and experiences we've been working on at the KLI to enable scientific reasoning that can contribute to the advancement of science and society. KLife invites you to engage with life at the KLI.



In this first issue, we feature the backstory of a collaborative paper written by KLI fellows on COVID-19 and celebrate the 15th anniversary of our journal *Biological Theory*. We also share with you a new call for writing-up fellows and offer you snapshots of diverse fellows, collaborations, events, and publications tied together by a common thread, that we are *A Home to Theory that Matters*.

Sending thoughts of reason and health in these troubled times,

Yours,  
The KLI Team

### A word from our president

The KLife Newsletter is designed to open up new ways of communication with the affiliates and friends of the KLI. It will assist in building a strong and diverse community dedicated to the theory, history, and philosophy of science. My thanks go to all those who contributed to the development of this new information outlet. I wish KLife a lively life!



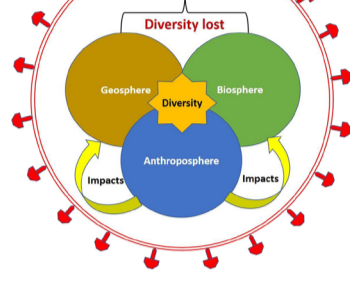
President  
Gerd Müller

## NEWS

A new KLI collaboration

### Diversity lost: COVID-19 as a phenomenon of the total environment

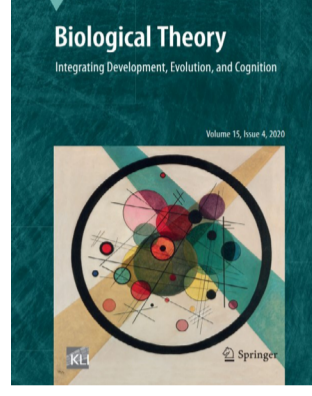
Late March, as COVID-19 cases skyrocketed around the world, hundreds of preprints on the pandemic were also pouring out at a dizzying rate. Our fellows got together to analyze the pandemic in terms of feedback between the three spheres of the total environment (the Biosphere, the Geosphere, and the Anthroposphere). They came to an alarming conclusion: the loss of diversity in all spheres is deeply interconnected with the emergence of the pandemic. [Read more...](#)



A happy birthday to our journal

### Biological Theory at 15!

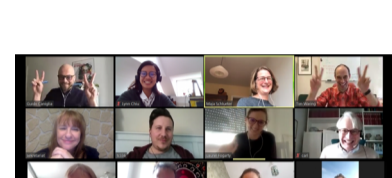
With its December issue, the KLI journal *Biological Theory* marks its 15th full year of publishing. The journal is increasingly looked to for new thinking in evolutionary developmental biology (EvoDevo) and the challenges it has mounted to the population biology-focused and gene-centric modern evolutionary synthesis that prevailed throughout most of the 20th century. [Read more...](#)



A new KLI working group

### Evolutionary theories for social-ecological change

A two-year KLI working group organized by Timothy Waring (Mitchell Center, University of Maine) and Maja Schlüter (Stockholm Resilience Center, Stockholm University) seeks to understand, explore, and implement evolutionary theories for social-ecological change. We covered [the kick-off event](#) and [interviewed Tim Waring](#) about the project. [Read more...](#)



## FELLOWSHIP CALL

A new call for Writing-up Fellows

### Theme: "Dealing with diversity in the life and sustainability sciences"

Last year, [a new "thematic" fellowship call](#) on the sustainability sciences recruited an excellent cohort that complemented our traditional areas of focus. This year, five new fellowships are offered to support an interdisciplinary cohort of late-stage PhD students working on conceptual and theoretical issues related to diversity in the life and sustainability sciences. [Read more...](#)



## RECENT EVENTS

The KLI Colloquium has gone virtual! Now friends, colleagues, and alumni from afar can join our (in)famously informal and provocative discussions! Bookmark our [event calendar](#) or [subscribe to our newsletter](#) to receive notifications.

Fellow initiatives

### Sharing science: Sci comm & open science in the digital age

Earlier this year, several KLI Fellows self-organized a series of dialogues around science communication and open science. These conversations led to decision to invite science communication experts for short talks and extended discussions. "Sharing science" is the first of multiple sessions to occur in the coming months. [Read more...](#)



Research mini-symposium

### A mini-symposium of fellows

On November 10th, we hosted an internal mini-symposium of 4min "blitz"-style presentations to introduce our fellows to each other. Instead of the usual presentation and Q&A format, Guido developed a new method to foster genuine engagements and camaraderie. Read for inspirational quotes and visions that drive our fellows! [Read more...](#)

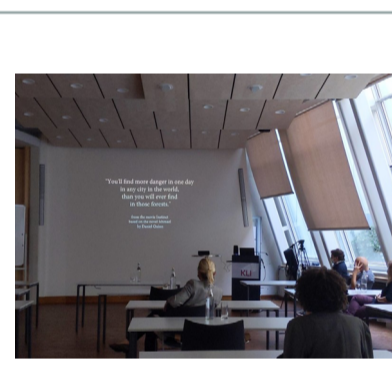
Why are we doing this?

- Getting to know each others' projects, interests, disciplines, skills.
- Presenting to a wide interdisciplinary audience.
- Trigger some unexpected opportunities for interactions, mutual learning, and cross-contamination.

Film discussion & meet the director

### "We will give the forest a voice!"

Roberto Cazzolla Gatti embarked on a one-month journey to give the Ivindo National Park a voice. In Oct, we experienced the breathtaking result— an epic documentary of a 150 km expedition, on foot, through uncharted territory. Read our report and watch the film for free. [Read more...](#)



EASPLS

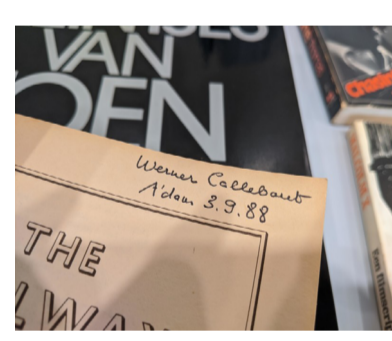
### An alternative EASPLS: Mentoring sessions

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In remembrance

### Remembering Werner Callebaut through his books

Our director, the late Werner Callebaut, was a Renaissance Man with wide interests, reading and contemplating in multiple languages. In February, we laid out his vast non-academic library as an exhibition and a moment of remembrance. [Read more...](#)



## ART AND SCIENCE

A new art and science grant

### ClimArtLab: Guido Caniglia and Dominika Glogowski win StartClim2020 grant

[Read more...](#)



## FEATURED PUBLICATIONS

Caniglia et al. *Nature Sustainability*

### A pluralistic and integrated approach to action-oriented knowledge for sustainability

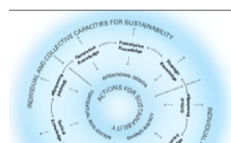
[Read more...](#)



Barberena et al. *Scientific Reports*

### Multi-isotopic and morphometric evidence for the migration of farmers leading up to the Inka conquest of the southern Andes

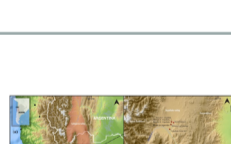
[Read more...](#)



Dorninger et al. *Ecological Economics*

### Trade reproduces international inequalities

[Read more...](#)



Cazzolla Gatti and Velichevskaya. *Science of the Total Environment*

### Casting doubt on certifications for sustainable palm oil production

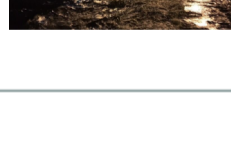
[Read more...](#)



Le Maître et al. *Evolutionary Biology*

### Unraveling an evolutionary puzzle of the mammalian ear

[Read more...](#)



Fabris. *Paradigmi*

### The philosophical impact of cybernetics on Waddington's processal epigenetics

[Read more...](#)



### Vienna Series in Theoretical Biology

Check out the collection [here on the MIT page](#). Forthcoming books include Levels of Organization in the Biological Sciences, Rethinking Cancer, and How Molecular Forces and Rotating Planets Create Life.

## Get in touch!

The KLI is an independent center of advanced studies in the life and sustainability sciences. The mission of the institute is to **enable scientific reasoning** that can contribute to understanding and sustaining life on Earth in its biological, cognitive, social, and cultural diversity.

The KLI supports research focusing on **evolutionary theory**, especially in its relation to development, cognition, and sustainability science, as well as on the history, philosophy, and social studies of science.

You can find further information about KLI on our [Homepage](#), [Twitter](#), and [YouTube](#).

The KLife Newsletter was conceptualized and produced by Communications Officer Lynn Chiu. Please send comments and questions to [comms@kli.ac.at](mailto:comms@kli.ac.at)