

“The unexamined life is not worth living”, Socrates said. In this spirit, this Science Day asks: *What is life?* But, wait a minute, ‘life’ in what sense? The molecular biologist who studies RNA transcription in cells deals with life in a different sense than the archaeologist who tries to understand the way of life of prehistoric human societies or the philosopher who ponders on the meaning of life. Yet, they are somehow all concerned with the same phenomenon, which each of us knows from their own personal experience: we were born, we live, and one day, hopefully not too soon, we will die. Life is what we are given, what we embrace and enjoy, what we tend to take for granted, what we fight for when it is under threat, what we, however, may also sacrifice for a higher cause. We care about our social life; but we let only special people have a glimpse of our inner life. At times, we find it hard to manage our emotional life. We are grateful for everything that enhances and enriches our intellectual life. Obviously, it is impossible to cover all aspects of the multi-faceted phenomenon of life on a single day. However, this does not stop us from trying to gain some insight into the complexity of the subject, namely through perspectives from art history, biology, chemistry, cognitive science, literary studies and philosophy. After the conclusion of this year's Science Day, everyone will have learned something new about what it means to live.

The Science Day will be followed by the celebration of the **Young Academy's 15th anniversary** at the same venue.

ORGANISING COMMITTEE

Dr. Anne Sophie Meincke | University of Vienna
 Assoz. Prof. Dr. Dagmar Woebken | University of Vienna

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REGISTRATION

Registration requested by 8th September 2023 via
www.oeaw.ac.at/veranstaltungen/anmeldung/anmeldung-science-day-und-15-jahre-feier



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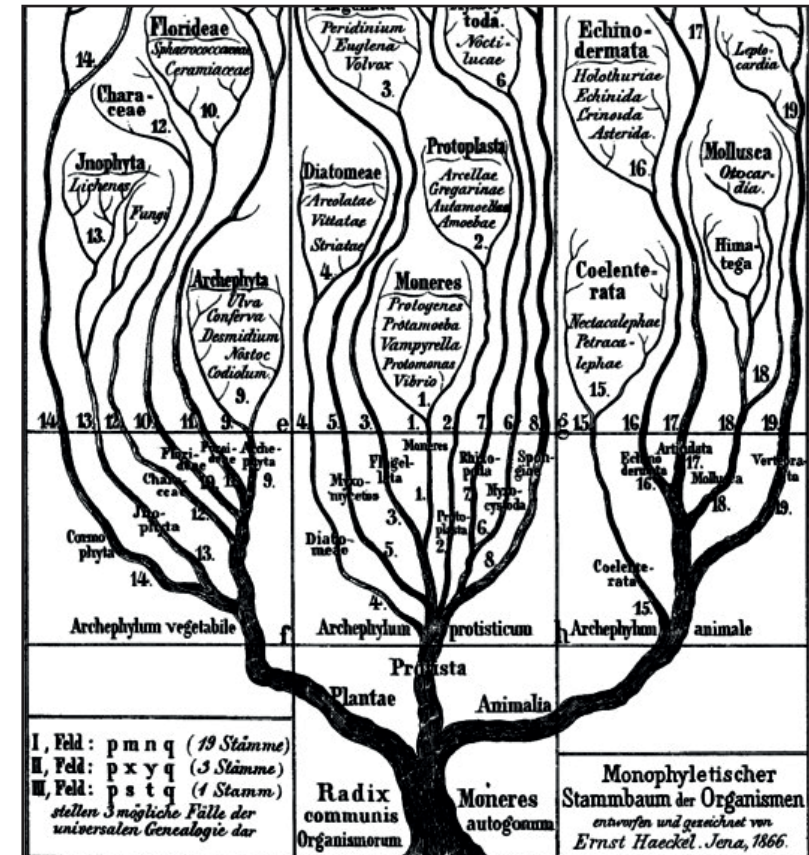
ÖAW

AUSTRIAN
 ACADEMY OF
 SCIENCES

TUESDAY, 19TH SEPTEMBER 2023

9:30–15:30

AUSTRIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES
 THEATERSAAL
 SONNENFELSGASSE 19, 1010 VIENNA



YOUNG ACADEMY

SCIENCE DAY

LIFE

PROGRAMME

- 09:30–09:45** WELCOME COFFEE
- 09:45–10:00** **Welcome**
Christiane Wendehorst | President of the Division of Humanities and Social Sciences of the Austrian Academy of Sciences
Anne Sophie Meincke & Dagmar Woebken | Organising Committee
- 10:00–10:30** **Alice Auersperg** | Messerli Research Institute, Veterinary University Vienna
Intelligent Life: Some Thoughts on the Evolution of Intelligence
- 10:30–11:00** **Anne Sophie Meincke** | Department of Philosophy, University of Vienna
Is All Life Conscious? Metaphysical Reflections
- 11:00–11:30** COFFEE BREAK
- 11:30–12:00** **Maximilian Hartmuth** | Department of Art History, University of Vienna
What Is Urban Life?
- 12:00–12:30** **Julia Lajta-Novak** | Department of English and American Studies, University of Vienna
True to Life, Off the Page: Autobiographical Spoken Word Poetry (and Its Discontents)
- 12:30–14:00** LUNCH BREAK
- 14:00–14:30** **Dagmar Woebken** | Department of Microbiology and Ecosystem Science, University of Vienna
Microbial Life at the Extreme
- 14:30–15:00** **Miriam Unterlass** | Department of Chemistry, University of Constance
The Chemistry of the Abiotic-Biotic Interface
- 15:00–15:30** **Wrap-up**
- 15:30–16:00** COFFEE BREAK