



# Seminar(i)

**Adaptation without natural selection:  
a critique of some current evolutionary thought**

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I will critically evaluate and discuss recent suggestions that evolutionary biology needs "major reform" or "significant extension" and that there is soon a "paradigm shift" to be expected, based on research on developmental plasticity, non-genetic inheritance, niche construction and other phenomena. I trace the historical roots to such unsubstantiated claims back to the late paleontologist Stephen Jay Gould and argue that these arguments are based on a conflation of source laws and consequence laws (as defined by philosopher Elliott Sober). I further criticize frequent claims that the Modern Synthesis and "Neo-Darwinism" are equivalent phenomena, and argue that these claims reflect poor scholarship among many critics of modern evolutionary biology. Finally, I argue that the popularity of ideas about adaptation without a major role for natural selection are flawed and a contradiction in terms.

**WHERE?**

Seminar room – SS6  
(Institutes building floor -1)

**WHEN?**

Thursday 28/11/2019 – 12:00 h

**LANGUAGE?**

English