

Invitation to the Guest Lecture of Georges Chapouthier

(CNRS France, *Centre national de la recherche scientifique* in Paris)

The mosaic theory of complexity

– A working hypothesis for the complexity of living organisms



École normale supérieure



Date: Thursday, May 7th 2015, 18:30 (Guest Lecture and Discussion)

Ort: Institut für Philosophie der Universität Wien, **HS 2G**

1010 Wien, Universitätsstr. 7, (NIG) Entrance II or III, 2nd Floor

What is going on?

The present argument, that is compatible with Darwin's theory of evolution, first explores the development of living species and the shift to ever increasing complexity. Two basic phenomena provide the keys to evolution towards complexity: juxtaposition and integration. These operations produce structures following the mosaic principle, i.e. juxtaposition, accumulating similar units, and integration, developing into a more sophisticated version with the original units then becoming component parts. Examples cited are from genetics, anatomy and human society. The human brain and mental operations, including memory and language, are also analysed as mosaic structures. In regard on several fields involving complex systems, this lecture presents the mosaic model, its emergence by juxtaposition and its relation to the philosophical concept of dialectics.

Prof. Dr. Georges Chapouthier:

Born in 1945 near Bordeaux (France), Chapouthier attended in 1964 the prestigious École Normale Supérieure in Paris. He then studied biology and philosophy, obtaining doctor's degrees in both fields (Strasbourg, 1973, and Lyon, 1986, respectively). During his whole career, Chapouthier has worked for the French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS), where he currently has the rank of "Emeritus Research Director". His research focuses on the pharmacology of memory and anxiety and on philosophy, especially the relations between humans and animals. Selected publication: *L'homme, ce singe en mosaïque*, Paris 2001: Editions Odile Jacob etc. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Georges_Chapouthier

In cooperation of *Philosophische Gesellschaft Wien* and
Internationale Gesellschaft für System der Philosophie

Organized by **Verein für Komparative Philosophie und Interdisziplinäre Bildung (KoPhil)**
Promoted by **Kulturabteilung der Stadt Wien (MA 07)**