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**Project Identity**  
Faculty of Humanities  
and Social Sciences  
University of Rijeka  
Rijeka, Croatia



**Croatian Society for  
Analytic  
Philosophy**  
(Hrvatsko društvo za  
analitičku filozofiju)

## ***Philosophy seminars***

Suradnici na projektu *Identitet* i *Društvo za analitičku filozofiju* pozivaju vas na predavanje:

**James DiFrisco (KLI, Vienna)**

### **Kinds of Biological Individuals: Projectibility, Analogy, and Selection**

Četvrtak, 02.06.2016.

Filozofski fakultet u Rijeci

Dvorana 401

Početak u 12:15 sati

**Sažetak:** This talk examines the problem of biological individuality through the lens of natural kinds. Biology utilizes a variety of kinds of individuals, including historical, functional, structural, developmental, physiological, and ecological kinds. In many cases these kinds issue in non-overlapping demarcations of biological systems and/or assign them to different hierarchical levels. For example, from physiological and developmental perspectives a worker bee is an individual organism, whereas from an evolutionary perspective it may be a part of a superorganism analogous to an organ. I propose one way of evaluating such rival perspectives, which is to assess the capacity of their associated kinds to support true inductive inferences. On this basis, I argue that the functional kind 'object of selection,' which is central to evolutionary accounts of individuality, is inferentially weak compared to other kinds, in addition to being operationally parasitic on non-functional biological kinds. These weaknesses can be traced to more general limitations of functionally defined kinds in the sciences.