

## **Defining life as a non-essentialist natural kind**

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The increasing number of proposals to define the concept of life in biology has led some authors to consider this task useless and without sense. All skeptics base their argument on the idea that life is a natural kind with a strong metaphysical commitment. Considering this, the aim of this talk is to explore the concept of life as a non-essentialist natural kind. These ways to understand natural kinds are not affected by such criticism, and could be useful to guide scientific research, providing not only theoretical concepts, but also tools to design experiments and to assess them.