

國立中正大學哲學系

學術演講

講題 : **Extending and Constructing Organisms**

時間 : 2017/5/24 (Wed.) 15:10

地點 : 文 412 研討室

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大綱 : Are microorganisms proper parts of their host organisms? I argue that commonly proposed “criteria of extension,” fail to justify the extension of “us” into multi-species organisms. Arguments based on these criteria, defined in terms of the causal-functional roles of external microorganisms, are subject to the Causal-Constitution Fallacy (as raised in the Extended Mind debate). In this paper, I propose a new criterion of extension using immunology as a core case. I argue that the identity of organisms can spatially extend to include symbiotic microorganisms by persistent (immunological) processes that select and construct the microorganismal parts into the organismic whole. Extension arguments based on these processes, which maintain the identity of the organism through time and space, are not subject to the Causal-Constitution Fallacy.