

Expires 1 September 2018

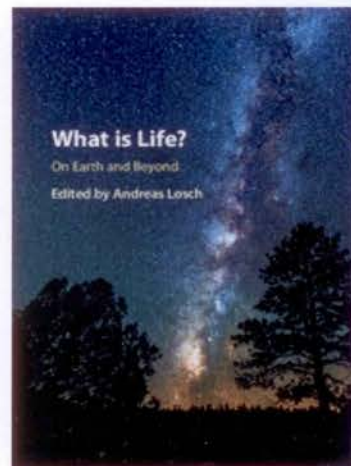
What is Life? On Earth and Beyond

Andreas Losch

Universität Bern, Switzerland

Approaches from the sciences, philosophy and theology, including the emerging field of astrobiology, can provide fresh perspectives to the age-old question 'What is Life?'. Has the secret of life been unveiled and is it nothing more than physical chemistry? Modern philosophers will ask if we can even define life at all, as we still don't know much about its origins here on Earth. Others regard life as something that cannot simply be reduced to just physics and chemistry, while biologists emphasize the historical component intrinsic to life on Earth. How can theology constructively interpret scientific findings? Can it contribute constructively to scientific discussions? Written for a broad interdisciplinary audience, this probing volume discusses life, intelligence and more against the background of contemporary biology and the wider contexts of astrobiology and cosmology. It also considers the challenging implications for science and theology if extraterrestrial life is discovered in the future.

Introduction; 1. Reflections on origins, life, and the origins of life; 2. The search for another Earth-like planet and life elsewhere; 3. The shape of life: morphological signatures of ancient microbial life in rocks; 4. Precellular evolution and the origin of life: some notes on reductionism, complexity and historical contingency; 5. Science and philosophy faced with the question of life in the 21st century; 6. What is life? And why is the question still open?; 7. Is the origin of life a fluke? Why the chance hypothesis should not be dismissed too quickly; 8. Some contemporary – and persistent – fallacies and confusions about astrobiology; 9. Superintelligent AI and the postbiological cosmos approach; 10. What theology can contribute to the question 'what is life?'; 11. Autopoietic systems and the theology of creation: on the nature of life; 12. Where there's life there's intelligence; 13. Life in the Universe, incarnation and salvation; 14. Talking lions, intelligent aliens and knowing God – some epistemological reflections on a speculative issue; 15. What is life? On Earth and beyond: conclusion; 16. A skeptical afterword.



July 2017

247 x 174 mm 328pp 4 b/w illus. 12 colour illus.

Hardback 978-1-107-17589-1

Original price	Discount price
£110.00	£88.00
\$140.00	\$112.00



www.cambridge.org/alerts

For the latest in your field

For more information, and to order, visit:

www.cambridge.org/LOSCH2017

CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS