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THE NEW INSTITUTE
Centre for Environmental
Humanities at Ca' Foscari
University of Venice
(NICHE)

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## From genomes to microbiomes: on historical narratives and why they matter

How does science develop and why do certain questions become dominant at particular moments in time? In this paper I will argue that historical narratives play an important role in shaping research questions and setting research agendas. Revisiting these narratives can open new vistas for historical and scientific research. I will discuss examples from the history of molecular biology and evolutionary biology to reflect on these points.