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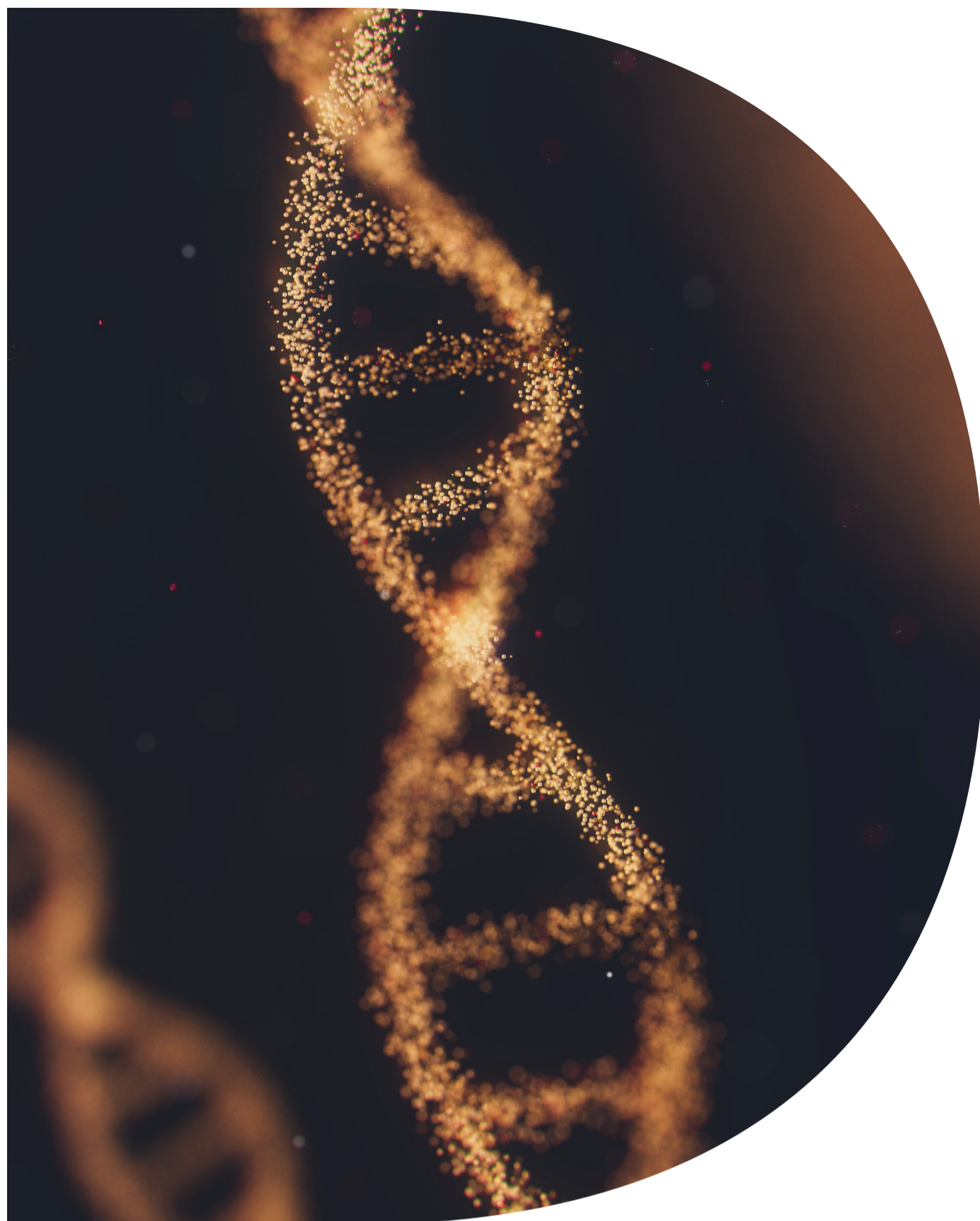
Dipartimento di
Filosofia e Beni
Culturali



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



25 January 2023

h. 10.00 am
Main Hall
Ca' Bottacin
Venice

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

Guest hosted by the ERC HealthXCross GA n. 949742



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Maurizio Meloni, Deakin University (Australia)

Health and Bodies in Postgenomics: From genetic causality to organism/ environment(s) entanglement

After the completion of the Human Genome Project in the early 2000s, postgenomics has emerged as an increasingly discussed umbrella term to cover all research on the complex molecular architecture that connects genomic sequences to the phenotype, expanding to a new set of approaches dubbed the “-omics” (e.g. epigenomics, microbiomics, transcriptomics: Richardson & Stevens, 2015). In the first part of my presentation, I will discuss the multiple semantics of the concept and its different operationalizations in medicine, philosophy, history, and sociology of biology (Griffiths & Stotz, 2013; Richardson and Stevens, 2015; Keller, 2015; Landecker & Panofsky, 2013; Meloni, 2016). In the second part I will focus on one specific

aspect of this polysemic term, that is the emerging *logic of imprint* by which the experiential and physical milieu “originating outside the body” is seen as impacting directly the biological body producing “shifts in conformation deep inside cells” (Lappé & Landecker, 2015: 153). Environmental epigenetics and DOHaD (Developmental Origins of Health and Disease) are particularly representative of this biosocial exchange between inner body and outer environment, particularly early life conditions. In conclusion, I will try to discuss both possible overlap with current research in microbiomics and highlight some of the social implications of seeing our biological body as deeply “impressionable” by ecological and social conditions.