
SPECIAL ISSUE

Genetic Novelty and Genomic Variation by RNA Networks and Viruses

EDITOR

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The 2018 symposium entitled “EVOLUTION—Genetic Novelty/Genomic Variations by RNA-Networks and Viruses” followed on “Natural Genetic Engineering and Natural Genome Editing” in 2008 (*Ann. N.Y. Acad. Sci.* Vol. 1178) and “DNA Habitats and Its RNA Inhabitants” in 2014 (*Ann. N.Y. Acad. Sci.* Vol. 1341). All three symposia were organized by philosopher Guenther Witzany. The 2018 symposium, upon which this issue is based, included 60 experts to discuss a new paradigmatic understanding of genetic novelty, as well as code-generating and genome-formatting agents such as RNA networks and viruses, and their roles in gene regulation. The 2018 symposium took place on July 4–8 at the St. Virgil Conference Center in Salzburg, Austria. Corrado Spadafora, from the Italian National Research Council, and Luis Villarreal, from the Center for Virus Research, University of California, Irvine were cooperating partners. Head administrator Hiltrud Oman managed all the details before and during the meeting. Andreas Oman and Martin Koller assisted directly at the conference center. Land Salzburg and Stadt Salzburg supported the symposium. Kostas Tosidis performed as the guitar soloist at the conference dinner.

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The cover image, submitted by Ascensión Ariza-Mateos *et al.*, is from the review article “The archaeology of coding RNA,” <https://doi.org/10.1111/nyas.14173>.

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