

Dr Mario Bunge
Instituto de Investigaciones Filosoficas
U.N.A.M.
México 20, D.F.
México



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AUTÓNOMA

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Dear Dr Lewontin

As you may remember, we had a brief exchange of views concerning the desirability and feasibility of convening a conference on materialism and science, and agreed to exchange whatever data or suggestions we might come up with.

I am afraid I have only a couple of ideas--which suggests that I am not a good candidate for organizing the conference. Here they are:

1. As you pointed out, we may encounter difficulties in obtaining funds. I am sure the Canadian funding agency (the Canada Council) would not sponsor a conference on "Materialism and science". But on the other hand it might support one on "Science, materialism, and idealism" (particularly if we were to hit on a better title). As for the USA, I don't know what the situation is, but you have there a large number of candidates, such as the National Humanities Foundation, the Matchette Foundation (devoted to supporting research in philosophy), and the Guggenheim Foundation.

2. So far I have come up with but the following table, which would have to be completed and modified.

| | |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|
| Physics | Jean-Marc Lévy-Leblond (Paris) |
| Chemistry | |
| Biochemistry | |
| Molecular biology | Lewontin , Ayala (?) |
| Biology | Gould, Wald, Maynard Smith |
| Neurosciences | |
| Psychology | |
| Sociology | Johan Galtung (Oslo) |

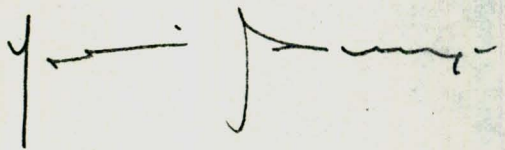
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|--------------|-----------------------------|
| Anthropology | Marvin Harris (Columbia U.) |
| Politolology | Mircea Malitza (Bucharest) |
| Economics | |
| History | |
| Philosophy | Bunge |

The above list does not include any idealist, and this simply because of my ignorance.

I hope you'll be more successful in sketching a plan for the conference.

Sincerely



P.S. It might be a good idea to have both invited papers and contributed papers. As for publication, I'd like to prepare a volume for the Episteme library published by the D. Reidel Publ. Co. under my general editorship.

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