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DEPARTMENT OF BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES
IN RIJEKA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL SCIENCES

# POZIV NA PREDAVANJE

Zadovoljstvo nam je pozvati Vas na predavanje koje će održati **prof. dr. Paul B. Rainey,** direktor Max Planck instituta za evolucijsku biologiju u Plönu. Predavanje će se održati **u knjižnici HAZU** (Trg Josipa Jurja Strossmayera 14, Zagreb), **26. 11. 2026. u 11 sati**.

## *Academic renewal needs pressure from below and responsibility from above*

Despite widespread commitments to responsible research assessment, academic practice remains dominated by journal prestige, publication counts, citation metrics and grant income. This talk examines the gap between institutional declarations and the incentives that continue to shape hiring, promotion, funding and publishing. These incentives do more than measure research: they influence which questions are pursued, encourage speed and visibility over care and originality, and disproportionately burden early-career researchers.

Meaningful renewal requires action at both ends of the academic hierarchy. Early-career networks and scholarly communities can build a shared vocabulary, document contradictions and press institutions to explain how their commitments are being implemented. But responsibility cannot be placed primarily on those with the least security. Senior academics possess greater influence over appointments, funding, mentoring and recognition, and must use it to align evaluative practice with declared principles.

The talk argues for renewed reliance on informed human judgment and for assessment systems that recognize careful scholarship, mentoring, replication, data stewardship, intellectual risk and long-term contribution. Reform will occur only when symbolic commitments become visible changes in everyday academic life.

**Paul B. Rainey:**
Paul was born in New Zealand and completed his bachelors, masters and PhD at the University of Canterbury. From 1989 until 2005 he was based in the UK where most of his time was as researcher and then professor at the University of Oxford. He began transitioning back to New Zealand in 2003, firstly as Chair of Ecology and Evolution at the University of Auckland, but then in 2007 moved to the New Zealand Institute for Advanced Study as one of its founding professors. Paul is currently Director of the Department of Microbial Population Biology at the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Biology in Plön (Germany) and Professor at ESPCI in Paris (France). He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of New Zealand, Member of EMBO and Member of the European Academy of Microbiology.

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