

## **On Minimal Autonomy**

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In this contribution I will reflect on the concept of autonomy and will argue for its relevance in biology, as a theoretical construct that contributes to explain why/how some complex sets of processes organize into relatively stable patterns that neatly distinguish themselves from the rest of the world (and are so called: systems, entities, individuals, organisms).

The way this is achieved in the biological domain is quite peculiar, as compared to physical or chemical entity formation processes. More concretely, it requires a continuous flow of matter and energy through the entity, so the definition/demarcation of its (spatial and temporal) boundaries is not such a trivial task. Autonomy, not to be confused with independence, will be proposed as the key concept to deal with this problem. In particular, I will put forward the idea of 'minimal autonomy' as a conceptual bridge, precisely, between complex self-organization phenomena (as they happen in physics and chemistry) and protocellular processes (leading to still infra-biological systems).

Thus, the philosophical attempt to naturalize a concept like autonomy will hopefully prove fruitful to design and carry out a research program in the scientific field of origins of life.