'The environment' is much invoked in contemporary biosciences and medicine, from the considerations of environmental impact and influence to the frequently and prominently appearing notions such as early-life and food environment. Yet for all the visibility, the meaning of the (ever expanding) term environment is rarely explained in detail. This lack of clarity is important, as it leads to ambiguities about the boundaries of environments. What counts as environment in one field may be understood as organism, or body, in another. For example, the microbiome is simultaneously understood as a part of the organism (constituting together a developmental or evolutionary unit) and as its environment (e.g., in faecal microbiota transplantation). Secondly, this lack of conceptual clarity can contribute to poor communication and impossibility of collaboration between fields. While historians and social scientists have begun to look seriously into the concept of the environment, they have mostly been content to acknowledge the multiplicity of meanings, without trying to sketch a genealogy, or classification of these "environments", including the epistemological and methodological challenges of each meaning. Against this background, this special issue aims at integrating historical and social with philosophical studies on the environment. We invite contributions that address the following two topics and sets of questions:

1) Conceptual foundations of the environment in the biosciences: What are the historical conditions of past conceptions of the environment and what are consequences of present interpretations? Which disciplinary or experimental settings favour specific views of the environment and why? Examples of these views include: collective or individual, homo- or heterogeneous, invariant or spatio-temporally flexible, selective or constructed, passive or actively generative, experienced or ‘acted on’, and external or internal environments. Furthermore, which recent trends in the biosciences, such as towards organism-environment reciprocity, constructed environments, and individual environments, offer new perspectives on older philosophical debates, for example, on externalism or the niche concept? Should the organism-environment relation be re-evaluated in the context of notions such as extended organism or holobiont? These and related questions may be addressed from a philosophical angle that analyzes the opportunities and challenges of different views on the environment in biological practice, ranging from experimental setups to explanatory standards. We explicitly welcome discussions topics that concern central past meanings of the term, such as milieux environnants (Lamarck), conditions of existence (Darwin), Umwelt (Uexküll), constructed environment (Lewontin), and others.
2) **Biomedical perspectives on the environment**: Biomedicine is exceptionally rich with regard to the range of environments considered while simultaneously poor with explicit definitions. We invite contributions that will consider what is in and what is out: what kinds of resources, disciplinary traditions, and philosophical concepts are taken into account when constructing the notion of the environment? Essays may analyze biomedical takes of notions such as neutral versus healthy or harmful; individual versus collective, or internal versus external. In the latter case, they may track the changing boundary between ‘internal’ and ‘external’. As a next step essays may inquire about the challenges and consequences of each of these concepts: where does the responsibility for the success of preventative or therapeutic intervention reside? What kind of politics forms the foundations of these concepts, and what sort of policy-making strategies do they lead to? We welcome essays studying fields and disciplines known for their considerations of environment, such as tropical medicine, environmental epidemiology and environmental epigenetics; but we also encourage contributions investigating other areas, taking comparative or longue durée approaches, and engaging with current debates, for example, concerning microbiome research or personalized medicine.

Please submit an abstract of max. 500 words until Jan. 15th, 2020 to [jan.baedke@rub.de](mailto:jan.baedke@rub.de) and [t.buklijas@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:t.buklijas@auckland.ac.nz). We will invite full papers by March 01st, 2020, and the deadline for full papers is Oct. 31st, 2020. Full papers will have to follow the general Guide for Authors of Studies in History and Philosophy of Biological and Biomedical Sciences.