

THE HUNGARIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES
SECTION OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES
cordially invites you to the

Free Will in an Indeterministic Universe

lecture of **Dr. Kevin Mitchell**

DATE TIME

2 December 2025, 14:00

VENUE

Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Felolvasóterem
(1053 Budapest, Széchenyi István tér 9.)

SUMMARY

How did the human capacity for conscious choice emerge from the evolutionary development of nervous systems? In this compelling lecture, Dr. Kevin Mitchell of Trinity College Dublin will trace the evolutionary origins of the nervous system and explore how increasing neural complexity gave rise to higher-order cognition and the phenomenon of agency. Drawing on the latest research in neuroscience and evolutionary biology, Dr. Mitchell will reveal the molecular underpinnings of our cognitive capacities and behavioral flexibility, and from the synthesis of these data will present a novel

perspective on what makes human decision-making unique.

The lecture will also connect these biological findings with longstanding philosophical debates about free will, revisiting classical frameworks in light of contemporary empirical data. By integrating genetics, neuroscience, and philosophy, Dr. Mitchell will demonstrate how modern science can inform, challenge, and reshape our understanding of human agency. This interdisciplinary exploration promises to illuminate one of humanity's most profound questions: are our actions predetermined, or do we possess genuine freedom of choice?



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