

Review of: "Provisional Definition of the Living State: Delineation of an Empirical Criterion that Defines a System as Alive"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

I agree with David Stevenson that this version is an improvement over the original, but unfortunately that is far from being enough. It does at least mention some of the forerunners in the field, but only some of them: there is still no mention of Tibor Gánti or Humberto Maturana and Francisco Varela; Stuart Kauffman rates a reference, but no mention in the text. And so on. Previously there were three references: a self-advertisement, a relevant article and what seemed to be a fake reference to Richard Dawkins's book. This last has disappeared, after I asked for a page number: is that an admission that there is no page number, because Dawkins never said it; it was just something the author made up?

Anyway, in a few weeks the three references have become 69. Can we seriously suppose that in the short period between the first and second versions the author has read, studied and understood all of these? Or did he just reproduce a convenient list he found somewhere, without bothering to read most of the sources cited? Alternatively, if he had read all 69 of these before submitting the first version, why didn't he cite them?