

# Review of: "Evolution, Through the Lens of a Physicist"

John Richard Helliwell<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The University of Manchester

**Potential competing interests:** No potential competing interests to declare.

This is an interesting and learned excursion led by the author. I comment really only on the second theme, the whole versus the parts. I have addressed this myself here <https://www.iucr.org/news/newsletter/volume-27/number-3/biology-an-autonomous-discipline> from my point of view as a crystallographer and biophysicist. Namely, I am of course aware, and make some citations, of the holistic biologists' views of molecular biology. There are meeting points of the two domains, though. I give an example, especially at the end of my article, of the coloration of the live lobster shell explained by the molecular level. Also, secondly, there is the success of medical interventions to deal with, and heal, a broken individual; an intervention, therefore, at the level of a part on behalf of the whole. A classic example is the HIV treatment medicines.