

Comment on the excerpt on condensates from "Inside Humpty inside the Cell."

"Typically, each of the individual interactions among these multivalent proteins and RNAs is very weak, so it forms and breaks frequently."

We don't know when nothing gets done. Happens all the time. "Multivalent" opportunists, no resume, no portfolio, just chaos or an affinity for chaos. "Let the defendant speak!" Who knows what anymore? "Broken," no. "Reformed," hardly. Both, necessarily. "I'll take you there, but the road map is necessarily lost." No more cause-and-effect unless "chaos" is given a seat at the table. A heavy in the room, rarely speaks, and most certainly doesn't entertain questions. "Multivalent," sanitized but oblique. "Tetravalent," numbered, counted out and unquestioned in its multifaceted order. The carbon atom speaks and decrees, the seat of all biomolecular order. "Multivalent" merely catalogues the debris in the room, the broken furniture at the seat of a rather active misunderstanding. A conversation best had "outside" in the rain. The carbon atom knows all about these episodes, it's not blind. Order underlying disorder even in the midst of disarray. Disheveled interactions allowed to approach the king who smiles and doesn't look concerned. A space is made "inside" the cell for ungoverned elements at home only "outside." "Very weak" interactions that "form and break" frequently, leaving no record of their appearance and, equally likely, disappearance. No sign-in sheet, no paperwork, no records. A nocturnal delight if creation is too much of a tussle in the light. A reprieve from order overruled and unconstrained.