On Saul Bellow’s style in *The Adventures of Augie March*, Philip Roth remarks: “There are sentences in the book whose effervescence, whose undercurrent of buoyancy leave one with the sense of so much going on, a theatrical, exhibitionist, ardent prose tangle that lets in the dynamism of living without driving mentalness out.” Such a description serves remarkably to characterize more than the signature vitality of Bellow’s prose, pointing to the very ‘tangle’ of life forces – mental, physical, and spiritual – that Bellow’s Artur Sammler confronts in the postwar ethical quest of *Mr. Sammler’s Planet*. In parsing this ‘tangle,’ Kelly Kawar’s talk aims to re-evaluate the particular ethical work of Bellow’s novel, reflecting on the ambivalent value of ‘life’ from both (neo-) vitalist and biopolitical perspectives.

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