




UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE

Origins Federation Conference

10 – 13 September, 2024
Møller Institute
University of Cambridge, UK



"For thousands of years, humanity and science have contemplated the origins of life in the Universe. While today's scientists are well-equipped with innovative technologies, humanity has a long way to go before we fully understand the fundamental aspects of what life is and how it forms."

Carl Zimmer

Columnist, The New York Times and author of *Life's Edge: The search for what it means to be alive.*

The Origins Federation is a research consortium with the goal of facilitating efficient multidisciplinary and innovative collaborative research to advance our understanding of the emergence and early evolution of life, and its place in the cosmos.

It is established by the following centers:

The Origins of Life Initiative (Harvard University)
Centre for Origin and Prevalence of Life (ETH-Zurich)
Center for the Origins of Life (University of Chicago)
Leverhulme Centre for Life in the Universe (University of Cambridge)

The Origins Federation will pursue scientific research topics of interest to its founding centers with a long-term perspective. It will strive to create opportunities for creative and innovative ideas, and to enable young scientists to make a career in this new field.

The Origins Federation is open to new collaborators, both centers and individuals, and is committed to working together to build the platform for a vibrant community.

PROGRAMME

Time	Mon 9 Sept	Tue 10 Sept	Wed 11 Sept	Thurs 12 Sept	Fri 13 Sept
08:00		Coffee	Coffee	Coffee	Coffee
08:45		Welcome			
09:00		Didier Queloz	Matt Powner	Paul Falkowski	Emily Parke
10:00		Jayne Birkby	Claudia Bonfio	David Catling	Carol Cleland
10:30		Nathan Mayne	Saidul Islam	Free time / morning break	Sonia Sultan
11:00		Morning break	Morning break		Wrap-up / coffee
11:30		Robin Wordsworth	John Sutherland	Nadja Drabon	
12:00		Elletra Piacentino	Jack Szostak	Benjamin Tutolo	
12:30		1-minute talks (poster intros.)	Lunch	1-minute talks (poster intros.)	
12:45		Lunch		Lunch	
14:00		Poster session 1	Ben Colville	Poster session 2	
14:30			Zoe Todd		
15:00			Breakout sessions		
15:30		Fred Ciesla		Laurie Barge	
16:00		Sara Russell		Sean McMahon	
16:30		Coffee	Coffee	Loic Pellissier	
17:00	Check-in / icebreaker The Møller Institute, Tower Lounge Bar and Restaurant	Steven Vance	Breakout discussions	Free time	
17:30		Judit Szulagyi	Free time		
18:00		Tim Lichtenberg			
18:30– 19:15				Drinks/reception, Fellows' Bowling Green (Trinity College)	
19:30– 22:00				Conference Dinner (Trinity College)	

To access the events at Trinity College, please go through the Porter's Lodge at Trinity College, a member of staff there will direct you to the venue. Please let the Porter know that you are there for the Origins Conference reception and dinner.

The Conference is funded by The Kavli Foundation, The Laukien Foundation, an anonymous donor, University of Cambridge, Leverhulme Centre for Life in the Universe and Trinity College, Cambridge.

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

The conference will have sessions with themes on:

- Prebiotic chemistry/ molecular evolution
- (Exo)planets & Planet Formation/ evolution
- Planetary environments/geo chemistry
- Philosophy of science/biology
- Synthetic Biology
- Evolution of life

Advisory Board:

Fred Ciesla, University of Chicago
Andrew Davison, University of Cambridge
Karin Oberg, Harvard University
Cara Magnabosco, ETH-Zurich
Emily Mitchell, University of Cambridge
Paul Rimmer, University of Cambridge
Oliver Shorttle, University of Cambridge
Nicholas Tosca, University of Cambridge

Events:

9 September 2024

Pre-Event Drinks Reception

The Møller Institute, Tower Lounge Bar and Restaurant, 5–7.00pm.

10–13 September 2024

Each day will start at 9:00am (with coffee from 8:00am onwards) and the conference will conclude on Friday, 13 September at 12:00pm.

23 Sessions of Talks:

All 30 Min (20 Min + 10 Min Q&A)

Posters:

Posters posted and available all days with 2 dedicated times for poster presentations; Tuesday, 10 September, 2–3:30 pm & Thursday, 12 September, 2–3:30pm.

Check-in and Icebreaker reception, Monday, 9 September, 5–8.00pm.

Conference Dinner on Thursday, 12 September, at 7.00pm

Dress is Business Casual

Past Events:

2022 LIFE IN THE UNIVERSE I | SOFIA, BULGARIA

<http://wp.me/P3qDa4-TT>

2023 LIFE IN THE UNIVERSE II | HARVARD, USA

<https://origins.harvard.edu/2023-conference>

ATTENDEES

Speakers:

Laurie Barge	NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory
Jayne Birkby	Oxford University
Claudia Bonfio	University of Cambridge
David Catling	University of Washington
Fred Ciesla	Harvard University
Carol Cleland	University of Colorado, Boulder
Ben Colville	University of Chicago
Nadja Drabon	Harvard University
Paul Falkowski	Rutgers University
Saidul Islam	Kings College London
Tim Lichtenberg	University of Groningen
Nathan Mayne	University of Exeter
Sean McMahon	University of Edinburgh
Emily Parke	University of Auckland
Loic Pellissier	ETH Zurich
Elettra Piacentino	Harvard University
Matt Powner	University College London
Didier Queloz	University of Cambridge
Sara Russell	Natural History Museum, London
Sonia Sultan	Wesleyan University, CT
John Sutherland	MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology, Cambridge
Jack Szostak	University of Chicago
Judit Szulagyi	ETH Zurich
Zoe Todd	University of Wisconsin-Madison
Benjamin Tutolo	University of Calgary
Steven Vance	Planetary Science, Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California Institute of Technology
Robin Wordsworth	Harvard University

Further speakers tbc.

Participants:

Abhishek Upadhyay	University of Cambridge
Alberto P. Munuzuri	Harvard University
Alex Thom	University of Cambridge
Amy Bonsor	University of Cambridge
Andrew Davison	University of Cambridge
Andy Yu Zhi Li	University of Chicago
Anmol Mishra	University of Chicago
Ben Colville	University of Chicago
Benjamin Tutolo	University of Calgary
Bruno Marinic	MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology, University of Cambridge
Cara Magnabosco	ETH Zurich
Casimir Fisch	ETH Zurich
Catriona McDonald	University of Cambridge
Charlotte Minsky	Harvard University
Chenyu Lin	Harvard University
Clancy Zhijian Jiang	University of Cambridge
Claudia Bonfio	University of Cambridge
Corinna Kufner	Harvard University
Craig Walton	ETH Zurich
Dan Bower	ETH Zurich
Daniel Angerhausen	ETH Zürich
Daniel Crocker	Harvard University
Daniel Santamaria	University College London
Daniel Whitaker	University College London
Dario Barillà	ETH Zurich
David Catling	University of Washington
David Degen	ETH Zurich
David Russell	University of Cambridge
Derek Vance	ETH Zurich
Didier Queloz	ETH Zurich & University of Cambridge
Dimitar Sasselov	Harvard University
Edoardo Gianni	MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology, University of Cambridge
Edouard Barrier	University of Cambridge
Elettra Piacentino	Harvard University
Emily Mitchell	University of Cambridge
Euan Furness	University of Cambridge
Fatma Zohra Mihoubi	University of Cambridge
Fidan Rahmatova	University of Cambridge
Filip Boskovic	The University of Chicago
Frances Rigby	University of Cambridge

Frank Laukien	Harvard University
Fred Ciesla	University of Chicago, USA
Greg Cooke	University of Cambridge
Harvey Dale	MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology, Cambridge
Jack W Szostak	University of Chicago
James Attwater	University College London
Jayne Birkby	University of Oxford
Jenny Calahan	Harvard University & Smithsonian Institute
John Sutherland	MRC-LMB, Cambridge
Jonah Peter	Harvard University
Juan Perez-Mercader	Harvard University
Karin Öberg	Harvard University
Karina Nakashima	University of Cambridge
Kira Podolsky	Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Komal Bali	ETH Zurich
Krishnakavya	
Thaipurayil Madanan	University of Cambridge
Kumar Siddharth	Harvard University
Lalitha Sairam	University of Cambridge
Leif-Thore Deck	ETH Zurich
Lijun Zhou	University of Pennsylvania
Lorenzo Pica Ciamarra	University of Cambridge
Luis Ohlendorf	University College London
Lukas Rossmann	University of Cambridge
Maiia Aleksandrova	University of Cambridge
Maria Oreshenko	ETH Zurich
Marilina Valatsou	ETH Zurich
Mark Wyatt	University of Cambridge
Mathias Beck	ETH Zurich
Matt Powner	University College London
Max Sommer	University of Cambridge
Nathan Magnan	University of Cambridge
Nick Tosca	University of Cambridge
Nikku Madhusudhan	University of Cambridge
Nils Stenseth	University of Oslo
Oliver Shorttle	University of Cambridge
Paolo Sossi	ETH Zurich
Paul B Rimmer	University of Cambridge
Princess Aira Buma-at	University of Cambridge
Qian Zhang	University College London
Richard Anslow	University of Cambridge
Robin Wordsworth	Harvard University

Roland Riek	ETH Zurich
S. Furkan Ozturk	Harvard University & King's College
Saidul Islam	Kings College, London
Sai Shruthi Murali	University of Cambridge
Sam Cabot	University of Cambridge
Sarah Crucilla	Harvard University
Sascha Feldmann	Harvard University
Savvas Constantinou	University of Cambridge
Sean Jordan	ETH Zurich
Shannon Kim	University of Chicago
Skyla White	University of Cambridge
Taylor Priest	ETH Zurich
Tereza Constantinou	University of Cambridge
Thomas Toschini	ETH Zurich
Tuhin Ghosh	University of Cambridge
Xavier Portillo	Harvard University
Xiwen Jia	Harvard University
Yael Kapon	Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Yuhan Li	University of Cambridge
Ziwei Liu	University of Cambridge

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Abhishek Upadhyay
Alberto P. Munuzuri
Ben Colville
Benjamin Tutolo
Casimir Fisch
Catriona McDonald
Charlotte Minsky
Chenyu Lin
Clancy Zhijian Jiang
Corinna Kufner
Dan Bower
Daniel Angerhausen
Daniel Crocker
Dario Barillà
Dimitar Sasselov
Edoardo Gianni
Edouard Barrier
Euan Furness
Fatma Zohra Mihoubi
Fidan Rahmatova

Filip Boskovic
Frances Rigby
Greg Cooke
Harvey Dale
James Attwater
Jenny Calahan
Jonah Peter
Kira Podolsky
Komal Bali
Krishnakavya Thaipurayil
Madanan
Kumar Siddharth
Leif-Thore Deck
Lijun Zhou
Lorenzo Pica Ciamarra
Luis Ohlendorf
Lukas Rossmanith
Maiia Aleksandrova
Maria Oreshenko
Mark Wyatt

Max Sommer
Nathan Magnan
Paolo Sossi
Paul B Rimmer
Princess Aira Buma-at
Richard Anslow
Roland Riek
Sam Cabot
Sarah Crucilla
Savvas Constantinou
Sean Jordan
Skyla White
Tereza Constantinou
Tuhin Ghosh
Xiwen Jia
Yael Kapon
Yanfeng Xing
Yuhan Li

Posters will be displayed throughout the duration of their designated session date until the afternoon of the next day with 1 minute talks (poster introductions) taking place between 12:15–12:45 on Tuesday, 10 September and Thursday, 12 September.

Poster session 1:

TIME: Tuesday, 10 September after lunch: 2–3.30pm

Poster session 2:

TIME: Thursday, 12 September after lunch: 2–3.30pm

Poster session details:

- Poster to be A0 (max poster size)
- Pins, clips and tape for poster hanging provided
- Poster Abstract: Please send to admin@lclu.cam.ac.uk **by August 31**
- Please name abstract file: surname_first initial_LITU3

Poster printing options:

If the posters are sent in advance, we can arrange for printing.

Please send to: admin@lclu.cam.ac.uk

LOCATIONS

Conference:

Møller Institute, Churchill College,
Storey's Way,
Cambridge,
CB3 0DE

what3words:

<https://w3w.co/washed.became.chained>

Google maps:

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/Bv5EHoNr73sYVk2w7>

Note:

Reservations to be coordinated via information provided on the registration form with room charges to be covered directly by the conference. Delegates will receive confirmation of their accommodation via Møller Institute or Robinson College depending on where they have been allocated accommodation. For any enquiries, please contact: admin@lclu.cam.ac.uk

Accommodation:

For the conference there will be rooms reserved for the delegates in one of the two locations:

Møller Institute,
Storey's Way,
Cambridge,
CB3 0DE

Hotel Check In Time: 2.30pm
Check Out Time: 10.30am

Robinson College,
Grange Road,
Cambridge,
CB3 9AN

what3words:

<https://w3w.co/levels.broke.kick>

Google maps:

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/SGep2bHuRjVHjyEfA>

Hotel Check In Time: 1–1.30pm
Check Out Time: 9.30am (keys returned to Porters Lodge)

Trinity reception and dinner:

Thursday 12th September, 6:30–7:15pm
Drinks and reception at Fellows' Bowling Green (Trinity College)

7:30–10:00pm
Conference Dinner (Trinity College)*

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Trinity College,
Cambridge,
CB2 1TQ

what3words:

<https://w3w.co/nerve.stiff.spot>

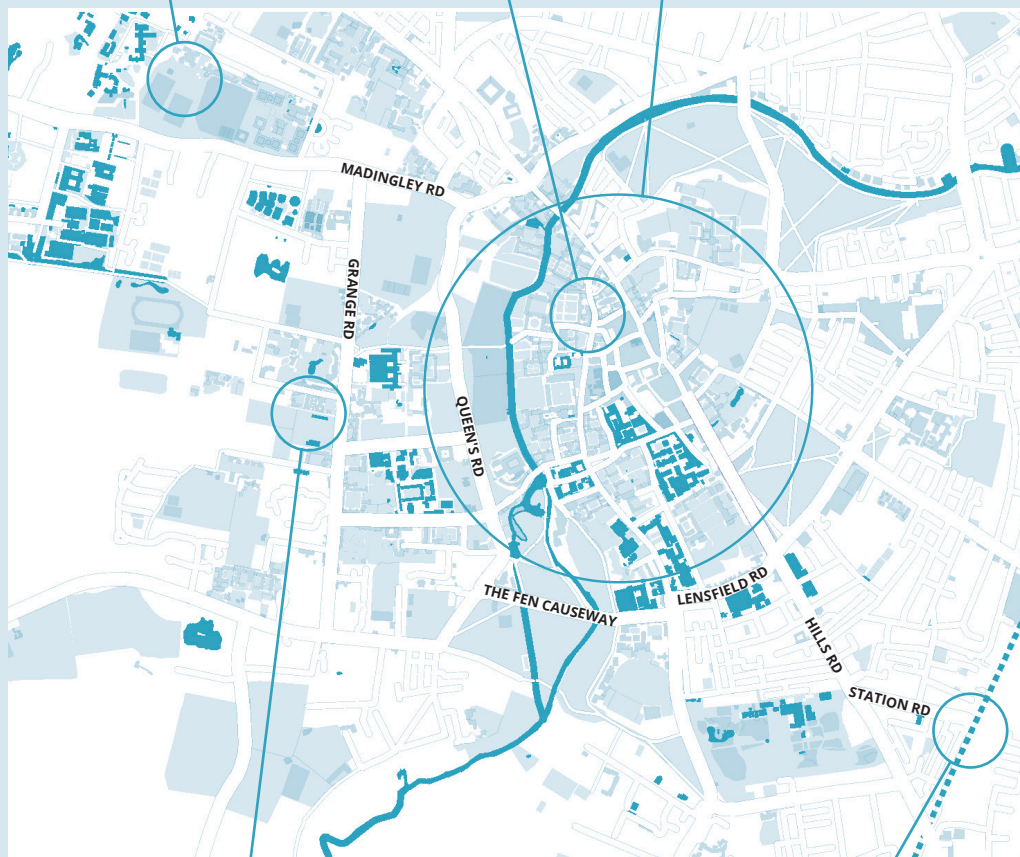
Google maps:

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/B1et4UGhLeTbdkRM6>

Møller Institute, Churchill College

Central Cambridge

Trinity College



Robinson College

Cambridge Station

TRAVEL & REIMBURSEMENT

Travel tickets:

Flights and Train travel tickets will be booked directly by Key Travel, University of Cambridge supplier.

All delegates needing travel arrangements should complete the "Travel Arrangements Form" by mid-July. They will then be contacted directly by the travel agency to make the appropriate bookings. You can choose to add train travel to and from the airport in the booking.

Note:

Any traveller who choose to make their own arrangements and would like to ask for refund, should check in with the organisers first via admin@lclu.cam.ac.uk

Approved refunds need to be within the travel limits provided below:

Ticket maximums:

Travelers within the UK: £150

Europe: £250

US: £800

Other locations: Please contact LCLU admin for pricing, email.

Travel airfare instruction & rules:

Once the meeting coordinator has shared the travel details and instructions with the travel agency, the agency will get directly in touch with the delegates to make their flight bookings. Please be sure to be aware of the following guidelines;

Some travel restrictions apply. Coach/economy fares only. No domestic baggage fees allowed unless one carry-on bag is not included. For any airfare change or last-minute cancellations fees may apply. Please contact us, if you have any questions or further information.

Please submit your travel details, air/ground transportation, as early as possible to take advantage of lower fares.

Please contact us, if you have any questions or need further information.
admin@lclu.cam.ac.uk

Other meals, travel expenses, etc:

Most workshop meals will be catered by the workshop directly.

Other meals, cabs, local transportation, etc will not be reimbursed.

Hotel:

Rooms at Møller Institute and Robinson College are booked for the delegates. Attendees stay will be paid for directly by the conference organisers. Reservations to be made via the conference coordinator only. After bookings, delegates will receive confirmation emails directly from the venue.

Notes:

Do not contact the hotel directly to make a reservation. The reservation desk will not have access to our block of rooms.

Reservation changes will have to be made through the Conference coordinator.

Conference co-ordinator: Alison Read, admin@lcllu.cam.ac.uk

NOTES



