Philosophical Perspectives on Origins of Life Research

A Day Workshop at the University of Cambridge
Between the Leverhulme Centre for Life in the Universe, University of Cambridge
and the Exploring Uncertainty and Risk in Contemporary Astrobiology (EURiCA) Project, University
of Durham

Tuesday 13 June 2023
Faculty of Divinity, West Road

The two longer talks, at 2.30 and 4.00 pm, will be streamed.

Join Zoom Meeting
https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85795837364?pwd=SENLdSsveUJFNzZqbXREY2SSM1B4UT09

9.00-10.30 am Two short presentations with accompanying discussion
Philipp Spillmann, “What is an unconceived alternative in astrobiology?”
Peter Vickers: “Confidence of Life Detection: The Problem of Unconceived Alternatives”
Sean McMahon: “False positives in life detection”

10.30-11.00 Break for Coffee

11.00-12.30 Three short presentations with accompanying discussion
Chris Cowie: “The concept of a biosignature”
Corentin Loron: “An information theory approach to biosignature and taphonomy”
Andrew Davison: “The Natural Origin of Life as a Theme in Christian Theology”

12.30-1.15 Break for Lunch

1.15-2.15 Three short presentations with accompanying discussion
Cat Gillen: Oumuamua: the ‘problem’ of the priors and its value to astrobiology”
Chris Greenwell: “Mineral – biomolecule complexes, challenges for identifying biosignatures”

2.15-2.30 Short break

2.30-3.30 Andrew Davison and Paul Rimmer: “Historical and Philosophical Perspectives on
Quantifying ‘Aliveness’” (streamed)

3.30-4.00 Break for Coffee

4.00-5.00 Cyrille Jeancolas: “Is astrobiology serious science?” (streamed)
Attendance in person is open to everyone associated with the Leverhulme Centre for Life in the Universe, or working in the area. To register your attendance, please email the Centre administrator at admin@lclu.cam.ac.uk. For further information please contact Andrew Davison (admin@lclu.cam.ac.uk). All are welcome to join us for the streamed papers.