

Call for abstracts/papers for the workshop on
EXTRATERRESTRIAL LIFE - BEYOND OUR EXPECTATIONS?



Vienna, Austria, May 21-22, 2012

 **ExoLife**

<http://www.univie.ac.at/eph/exolife>

Call for abstracts/papers: Extraterrestrial Life – Beyond our Expectations?

This interdisciplinary workshop will be held in Vienna, May 21-22, 2011. It will be organized by the members of the research platform on ExoLife from the University of Vienna.

During these two days the workshop will explore:

- Questions on the habitability of (extrasolar) terrestrial planets (and moons) for life-as-we-know-it, but also the scientific background of possibilities for life-as-we-do-not-know-it.
- Questions beyond natural sciences which will deal with theory of science, communication aspects with extraterrestrials and theological, sociological, historical and philosophical impacts of the potential discovery of extraterrestrial life on humankind.

The workshop will be held at the European Space Policy Institute (ESPI):

Schwarzenbergplatz 6 (entrance: Zaunergasse 1-3), 1030 Vienna, Austria (<http://www.espi.or.at/>);

[Click here to find out how to go to ESPI.](#)

Scientific programme:

Keynote lectures: 30 min

Contributed talks: 20 min

Poster session

Social programme:

- Workshop dinner
- Guided tour through the museum of the history of Astronomy at the Univ. of Vienna

List of topics that will fit the workshop agenda:

I) *Classical versus exotic life*

- Definition of life
- The theory of exotic/weird life
- Origin of life
- Theory of panspermia

II) *Questions on the habitability of (exo)planets and moons*

- Biomarkers
- Detection of extraterrestrial life
- Habitable zone and life-supporting-zone
- Conditions for the habitability of (extrasolar) terrestrial planets (and moons)
- Possibility of photosynthesis on other worlds
- Space missions with an astrobiological focus

III) *Theological, sociological, historical and philosophical aspects*

- Detection and communication of/with extraterrestrials
- Planetary protection versus exploration/colonization: privilege or duty
- Theological/sociological/historical/philosophical impacts of Astrobiology

Proceedings:

In order to be eligible for publication in the workshop proceedings, final papers are to be submitted to Johannes Leitner (johannes.leitner@univie.ac.at) no later than June 30, 2012. More details on the workshop proceedings will be published by the end of January 2012.

Confirmed Keynote Speakers (invited):

José Funes, Vatican Observatory

Gerda Horneck, DLR, Institute of Aerospace Medicine, Radiation Biology

Lisa Kaltenecker, Max Planck Institute for Astronomy, Heidelberg, Germany

Helmut Lammer, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Institute for Space Research

Dirk Schulze-Makuch, Washington State University, School of Earth and Environmental Sciences

Accommodation:

The hotel "Hotel am Konzerthaus" will be located very close to the conference location and a special rate of 107 EUR per night (and single room; double room for 124 EUR) will be given to the participants of this workshop. Please include the information in your registration email if you would like to use this hotel and wish that the booking will be done for you (inclusive date). For students several low-cost accommodation possibilities can be found at the [website of the youth hostels in Vienna](#).

Registration:

If you are interested in attending the workshop please send an email to johannes.leitner@univie.ac.at, latest date: on January 31, 2012. Please state name, affiliation, and if you would like to submit only an abstract or a paper too. There will be a registration fee of EUR 50, which includes coffee/snacks during the workshop, public transportation tickets, lunch, conference dinner and the book of abstracts. Please register as soon as possible because there is a limit to the maximum of participants.

Abstract Submission:

Abstracts should include author's name and affiliation, email address, submission title and abstract text of not more than 300 words. Deadline for abstracts: March 16, 2012. Please send your abstract via email to johannes.leitner@univie.ac.at.

Important Dates:

January 31, 2012: Registration deadline

March 16, 2012: Abstract deadline

April 28, 2012: Final programme

May 21-22: Workshop

July 30, 2012: Submission deadline for articles for the proceedings

Scientific Organizing Committee:

Maria Firneis, University of Vienna, Inst. f. Astronomy, Research Platform: ExoLife

Regina Hitzemberger, University of Vienna, Faculty of Physics, Research Platform: ExoLife

Johannes Leitner, University of Vienna, Inst. f. Astronomy, Research Platform: ExoLife

David Neubauer, University of Vienna, Faculty of Physics, Research Platform: ExoLife

Contact:

For further questions, registration and abstract submission contact:

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