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1. Uniqueness – Earth becoming invisible to extraterrestrials now

Jones, Emeritus Professor of Genetics at University College London, 10

(Steven, “Satellite TV 'making humans invisible to aliens on other planets'”, Jan 26,

http://www.telegraph.co.uk/science/science-news/7073574/Satellite-TV-making-humans-invisible-to-aliens-on-other-planets.html)

Dr Drake, who founded the SETI (Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence) organisation in the US 50 years ago, said the digital age was effectively gagging the Earth by cutting the transmission of TV and radio signals into space.

At present, the Earth was surrounded by a 50 light year-wide ''shell'' of radiation from analogue TV, radio and radar transmissions, he said.

But although the signals had spread far enough to reach many nearby star systems, they were rapidly vanishing before the march of digital technology.

To a race of observing aliens, digital TV signals would look like noise, said Dr Drake.

Digital transmissions were also much weaker than their terrestrial equivalent.

While old-style TV transmitters might generate one million watts, the power of a satellite signal was around 20 watts. Satellites also aimed their transmissions at the Earth, with almost none being allowed to escape into space.

Use of cable prevented the leakage of signals even more effectively.

''Now the actual amount of radiation escaping into space is about two watts, not much more than you get from a cell phone,'' said Dr Drake.

''If this continues into the future very soon our world will become undetectable. Using ourselves as an example, it means the difficulty of finding other civilisations will be much greater.

1. Link – Space exploration & development risks contact

Moskcowitz, writer for Christian Science Monitor, 4/28/11

[Clara, writer for Christian Science Monitor, CSM, “Ignoring Stephen Hawking-NASA will continue to search for extraterrestrial life” 4/28/11, <http://www.csmonitor.com/Science/2010/0428/Ignoring-Stephen-Hawking-NASA-will-search-for-extraterrestrial-life>, accessed 6/26/11, HK]

Scientists haven't found E.T. just yet, but they may be pinning down the best places and ways to look for alien life during future space missions, NASA researchers said Wednesday. Scientists there said they are still eager to find life elsewhere in the universe despite the firestorm this week kicked off by famed cosmologist Stephen Hawking, who suggested that perhaps humans shouldn't be so eager to find aliens since there's a chance they would want to colonize Earth or strip it for resources. "We're interested and prepared to discover any form of life," said Mary Voytek, astrobiology senior scientist at NASA Headquarters, during the teleconference. Cornell University planetary scientist Steve Squyres, principal investigator of the Mars Exploration Rover project, said NASA scientists were currently considering a list of 28 future science missions that could help discover signs of extraterrestrial life."Astrobiology and the search for life is really central to what we should be doing next in the exploration of the solar system," Squyres said. He mentioned a host of possible robotic missions, including visits to Mercury, Mars, the moons of Jupiter and Saturn, and even distant outer solar system flybys. In particular, the Saturnian moons Titan – with its lakes of methane and ethane – and Enceladus, with its plumes of water vapor, seem like possibly habitable sites. Squyres also said NASA is considering an ambitious three-part mission to Mars that would return samples of rock back to Earth for scientists here to study in person. This mission "might reveal a great deal about whether Mars once harbored life," he said. Other scientists on the panel agreed that a Mars sample return mission would be invaluable. "I personally think if we're ever going to be able to show that there was past life on Mars – if there was past life on Mars – I think we're going to need to study the samples here on Earth rather than robotically," said Bill Schopf, a researcher at the University of California, Los Angeles. "I think if we had the rocks back tomorrow and I had them in my lab, I think we could solve this problem." Schopf and another researcher, Jack Farmer of Arizona State University, announced the results of a recent study in which they found that a type of mineral deposit called sulfate can harbor fossils of ancient organisms. Although the scientists studied samples of sulfate from Earth, this material is also present in large quantities on Mars. The fact that they found fossilized life in Earth's sulfate means that Mars' sulfate would be capable of storing a record of life, too, if that life existed. Thus, collecting samples of sulfate on Mars would be a good place to look for Martian life, they said. Another possible place to look for life in the solar system is asteroids. Researchers announced for the first time Wednesday that they'd found direct proof of frozen water and organic compounds – which could include the ingredients for life – on a space rock in the main asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter. Both water and organic materials are considered necessary to make a place habitable. "Any time you have materials like that present you have a candidate that is worthy of study," Squyres said. "We should go where the data lead us."

1NC 2/2

1. Impact – Contact with extra terrestrials leads to destruction of humanity

Leake, Writer for the Sunday Times, 10

[Jonathon, The Sunday Times, “Don’t talk to aliens, warns Stephen Hawking” 4/25/10 http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/science/space/article7107207.ece ,accessed 6/21/11,HK]

THE aliens are out there and Earth had better watch out, at least according to Stephen Hawking. He has suggested that extraterrestrials are almost certain to exist — but that instead of seeking them out, humanity should be doing all it that can to avoid any contact. The suggestions come in a new documentary series in which Hawking, one of the world’s leading scientists, will set out his latest thinking on some of the universe’s greatest mysteries. Alien life, he will suggest, is almost certain to exist in many other parts of the universe: not just in planets, but perhaps in the centre of stars or even floating in interplanetary space. Hawking’s logic on aliens is, for him, unusually simple. The universe, he points out, has 100 billion galaxies, each containing hundreds of millions of stars. In such a big place, Earth is unlikely to be the only planet where life has evolved. “To my mathematical brain, the numbers alone make thinking about aliens perfectly rational,” he said. “The real challenge is to work out what aliens might actually be like.” The answer, he suggests, is that most of it will be the equivalent of microbes or simple animals — the sort of life that has dominated Earth for most of its history. One scene in his documentary for the Discovery Channel shows herds of two-legged herbivores browsing on an alien cliff-face where they are picked off by flying, yellow lizard-like predators. Another shows glowing fluorescent aquatic animals forming vast shoals in the oceans thought to underlie the thick ice coating Europa, one of the moons of Jupiter. Such scenes are speculative, but Hawking uses them to lead on to a serious point: that a few life forms could be intelligent and pose a threat. Hawking believes that contact with such a species could be devastating for humanity. He suggests that aliens might simply raid Earth for its resources and then move on: “We only have to look at ourselves to see how intelligent life might develop into something we wouldn’t want to meet. I imagine they might exist in massive ships, having used up all the resources from their home planet. Such advanced aliens would perhaps become nomads, looking to conquer and colonise whatever planets they can reach.” He concludes that trying to make contact with alien races is “a little too risky”. He said: “If aliens ever visit us, I think the outcome would be much as when Christopher Columbus first landed in America, which didn’t turn out very well for the Native Americans.” The completion of the documentary marks a triumph for Hawking, now 68, who is paralysed by motor neurone disease and has very limited powers of communication. The project took him and his producers three years, during which he insisted on rewriting large chunks of the script and checking the filming. John Smithson, executive producer for Discovery, said: “He wanted to make a programme that was entertaining for a general audience as well as scientific and that’s a tough job, given the complexity of the ideas involved.” Hawking has suggested the possibility of alien life before but his views have been clarified by a series of scientific breakthroughs, such as the discovery, since 1995, of more than 450 planets orbiting distant stars, showing that planets are a common phenomenon. So far, all the new planets found have been far larger than Earth, but only because the telescopes used to detect them are not sensitive enough to detect Earth-sized bodies at such distances. Another breakthrough is the discovery that life on Earth has proven able to colonise its most extreme environments. If life can survive and evolve there, scientists reason, then perhaps nowhere is out of bounds. Hawking’s belief in aliens places him in good scientific company. In his recent Wonders of the Solar System BBC series, Professor Brian Cox backed the idea, too, suggesting Mars, Europa and Titan, a moon of Saturn, as likely places to look. Similarly, Lord Rees, the astronomer royal, warned in a lecture earlier this year that aliens might prove to be beyond human understanding. “I suspect there could be life and intelligence out there in forms we can’t conceive,” he said. “Just as a chimpanzee can’t understand quantum theory, it could be there are aspects of reality that are beyond the capacity of our brains.”

Uniqueness – Decreasing Exploration Now

NASA Spaceflight ending now

**The Space Review 11**

**(**“New strategies for exploration and settlement” June 6th, http://www.thespacereview.com/article/1860/1)

Greason, though, is more pessimistic about the future of at least NASA’s human spaceflight program without a firm strategy in place for space settlement. Without that strategy, he said, “we’re going to build a big rocket, and then we’re going to hope a space program shows up to fly it. Any in my opinion, that strategy—the strategy of default—is going to result in the end of the NASA human spaceflight program” when members of Congress question the wisdom of spending several billion dollars a year on that effort and its lack of progress in an era of constricting budgets. “If we haven’t done better in the next ten years than we have in the last ten years, we’re going to lose that fight, and NASA’s human spaceflight activity will end.”

Link- Exploration

Space exploration will lead to alien encounter

Daily Galaxy 5/29/2011

[‘Weekend Feature: 'Endeavour' Astronauts on Extraterrestrial Life -- "We'll find something out there."’, May 29th, 2011, http://www.dailygalaxy.com/my\_weblog/2011/05/-weekend-feature-endeavour-astronauts-on-extraterrestrial-life-well-find-something-out-there.html]

The human race will find life elsewhere in the Universe as it pushes ahead with space exploration, reported astronauts of the space shuttle Endeavour. The US space shuttle Endeavour prepares today to undock from the International Space Station and jet back to Earth, wrapping up its final journey before entering retirement, NASA said. "If we push back boundaries far enough, I'm sure eventually we'll find something out there," said Mike Foreman, a mission specialist on the Endeavour, "Maybe not as evolved as we are, but it's hard to believe that there is not life somewhere else in this great Universe," he added. “I personally believe that we are going to find something that we can't explain," said another astronaut, Gregory Johnson. "There is probably something out there but I've never seen it," he said. Dominic Gorie, the crew commander and veteran of four space flights, points out that explorers in past eras did not know what they would find before setting off across the ocean. "As we travel in the space, we don't know what we'll find. That's the beauty of what we do. I hope that someday we'll find what we don't understand." Takao Doi, a Japanese astronaut on past Endeavour missions, agreed "life like us must exist" elsewhere in the Universe. The comments come after a surprisingly high-level debate in Japan about UFOs. Japan's Foreign Minister, Nobutaka Machimura said in 2007 that he personally believed aliens existed, in an unusual rebuttal to a government statement that Japan had no knowledge of UFOs. Defence Minister Shigeru Ishiba went as far as to say that he was studying the legal ramifications of responding to an alien attack in light of Japan's post-World War II pacifist constitution. At the celebration marking the 50th anniversary of NASA, Stephen Hawking, Newton's heir as the Lucasian Professor of Mathematics at the University of Cambridge, answered the question, “Are we alone?” His answer is short and simple; probably not!

Space exploration leads to alien encounter

Moskowitz, Senior writer at space.com, 10

(Claire, “Ignoring Stephen Hawking, NASA will search for extraterrestrial life”, April 28, , http://www.csmonitor.com/Science/2010/0428/Ignoring-Stephen-Hawking-NASA-will-search-for-extraterrestrial-life)

Scientists haven't found E.T. just yet, but they may be pinning down the best places and ways to look for alien life during future space missions, NASA researchers said Wednesday.

Experts on the search for extraterrestrial life spoke to reporters from the Astrobiology Science Conference near Houston to celebrate 50 years of astrobiology research.

Scientists there said they are still eager to find life elsewhere in the universe despite the firestorm this week kicked off by famed cosmologist Stephen Hawking, who suggested that perhaps humans shouldn't be so eager to find aliens since there's a chance they would want to colonize Earth or strip it for resources.

"We're interested and prepared to discover any form of life," said Mary Voytek, astrobiology senior scientist at NASA Headquarters, during the teleconference.

Link - Exploration

Continued space exploration will find alien life

The Guardian, 2011

[The Gaurdian, “Alien encounters 'within twenty years'” 2011, <http://www.guardian.co.uk/science/2011/jun/27/alien-encounters-twenty-years-russian-astronomer>, accessed 6/27/11, HK]

Russian scientists expect humanity to encounter alien civilisations within the next two decades, a top Russian astronomer said on Monday. "The genesis of life is as inevitable as the formation of atoms ... Life exists on other planets and we will find it within 20 years," said Andrei Finkelstein, director of the Russian Academy of Sciences' Applied Astronomy Institute, according to the Interfax news agency. Speaking at an international forum dedicated to the search for extraterrestrial life, Finkelstein said 10% of the known planets circling suns in the galaxy resemble Earth. If water can be found there, then so can life, he said, adding that aliens would most likely resemble humans with two arms, two legs and a head. "They may have different colour skin, but even we have that," he said. Finkelstein's institute runs a programme launched in the 1960s at the height of the cold war space race to watch for and beam out radio signals to outer space. "The whole time we have been searching for extraterrestrial civilisations, we have mainly been waiting for messages from space and not the other way," he said. In March a Nasa scientist caused controversy after claiming to have found tiny fossils of alien bugs inside meteorites that landed on Earth. Richard Hoover, an astrobiologist at the US space agency's Marshall space flight centre in Alabama, said filaments and other structures in rare meteorites appear to be microscopic fossils of extraterrestrial beings that resemble algae known as cyanobacteria. Writing in the Journal of Cosmology, Hoover claimed that the lack of nitrogen in the samples, which is essential for life on Earth, indicated they are "the remains of extraterrestrial life forms that grew on the parent bodies of the meteorites when liquid water was present, long before the meteorites entered the Earth's atmosphere."

Space exploration risks contact

Wachtel, international broadcast journalist, 10

(Jonathan, “U.N. and Aliens”, October 14th, 2010, http://liveshots.blogs.foxnews.com/2010/10/14/u-n-and-aliens/)

We Earthlings are poorly prepared to respond should there be contact from aliens, according to the director of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA). “Statistically, extraterrestrial life is a possibility,” Malaysian astrophysicist, Mazlan Othman, told journalists in New York, where she is attending a General Assembly meeting on cooperation in the peaceful use of outer space.

Othman says solar systems of planets around stars are constantly being discovered and when considering the billions of stars in space, “we could find life,” though when discussing extraterrestrial life, it is “not always green aliens with large lovely eyes, but most likely bacteria.” Othman concedes that she is not an expert on extraterrestrial life, but points out that as space exploration improves, its detection becomes more likely. She believes that the world must come together to lay out a plan for how to cope with such a discovery. She says it makes sense for the U.N. and its member states to determine who should represent humanity if aliens come to our planet.

Link – Colonization

Colonization will lead to alien contact

Lombardo, founder and Executive Director of the Center for Future Consciousness 8 (Tom, Space Exploration and Cosmic Evolution, 4/10/8, p. 2, accessed 6/28/11, CW)

It is clear why traveling into outer space holds such great appeal and captures the imagination of humanity. It is the adventure of humanity into the cosmos, the journey into the mysteries of the universe. It offers the possibility of exploring a myriad of other worlds. Through space travel and colonization, humanity and life will spread through the universe and potentially diversify and multiply in mind-spinning ways. The further growth of science, technology, and civilization to depths and heights that would dwarf our present human reality are also part of the potential saga of space exploration. As we imagine the incredible expanse of the universe, there to be explored and settled, the future and the time needed to accomplish this immense and variegated journey stretches outward into thousands, millions, and even billions of years. Space travel also offers the possibility of contact with alien intelligent minds and strange and wondrous cultures. What will we learn, what will we see within ourselves, as a consequence of meeting other sentient beings? Perhaps the single most important event of the coming centuries, if not within the entire history of humanity, will be contact with our cosmic neighbors. With these hopes and dreams there are also great fears, for space is a metaphor for mystery and uncertainty. There are the fears, beginning with H.G. Wells’ The War of the Worlds, and popularized so well in contemporary science fiction, that aliens will destroy us or inflict some great cultural shock upon us. For every one of the fantastic and uplifting dreams associated with the journey into outer space, there is a potential demon, nightmare, or unsettling reality lurking in the darkness. All told, space travel has been seen as a central metaphor on the future and the ultimate adventure of tomorrow, filled with both great uncertainties and promises, extending outward to the infinities of existence.

Link - SETI

SETI will lead to alien discoveries by 2027

Wired.com, 7/2002

[Wired.com, “SETI: We'll Find 'Alien' by 2027” 7/2002, <http://www.wired.com/science/discoveries/news/2002/07/53887>, accessed 6/27/11, HK]

CANBERRA -- Scientists searching the stars for aliens are convinced an E.T. is out there -- it's just that they haven't had the know-how to detect such a being. But now technological advances have opened the way for scientists to check millions of previously unknown star systems, dramatically increasing the chances of finding intelligent life in outer space in the next 25 years, the world's largest private extraterrestrial agency believes. "We're looking for needles in the haystack that is our galaxy, but there could be thousands of needles out there," said Seth Shostak, the senior astronomer at SETI, California's nonprofit Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence Institute. "If that's the case, with the number of new star systems we now hope to check, we should find one of those in the next 25 years." But Shostak, visiting Australia to attend a conference on extraterrestrial research, said detecting alien life, like the big-eyed alien in the film E.T., was only the start. "Even if we detect life out there, we'll still know nothing about what form of life we have detected and I doubt they'll be able -- or want -- to communicate with us," Shostak said. Since it was founded in 1984, the SETI Institute has monitored radio signals, hoping to pick up a transmission from outer space. Its Project Phoenix conducts two annual three-week sessions on a radio telescope at Arecibo, Puerto Rico. Project Phoenix, widely seen as the inspiration for the 1997 film Contact starring Jodie Foster, which depicted a search for life beyond Earth, is the privately funded successor to an original NASA program that was cancelled in 1993 amid much skepticism by Congress. But the search has been slow. About 500 of 1,000 targeted stars have been examined -- and no extraterrestrial transmissions have been detected. "We do get signals all the time but when checked out they have all been human made ... and are not from E.T.," Shostak said. "More AT&T." He said the privately funded institute was developing a $26 million telescope, scheduled to begin operating in 2005, that can search the stars for signals at least 100 times faster. The Allen Telescope Array, named after sponsor and Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen, is a network of more than 350, 20-foot satellite dishes with a collecting area exceeding that of a 338-foot telescope. The Allen Array, to be built at the Hat Creek Observatory about 290 miles northeast of San Francisco, will also expand SETI's stellar reconnaissance to 100,000 or even 1 million nearby stars, searching 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Shostak said he is convinced there is intelligent life out there -- but don't expect to find a lovable, boggle-eyed E.T. He said if any aliens share the same carbon-based organic chemistry as humans, they would probably have a central processing system, eyes, a mouth or two, legs and some form of reproduction. But Shostak thinks any intelligent extraterrestrial life will have gone light years beyond the intelligence of man. "What we are more likely to hear will be so far beyond our own level that it might not be biological anymore but some artificial form of life," he said. "Don't expect a blobby, squishy alien to be on the end of the line."

SETI will lead to finding aliens

Independent i.e., 2008

[Independent i.e.,”We will find Aliens by 2025” 12/10/2008 ,<http://www.independent.ie/business/technology/we-will-find-aliens-by-2025-1539988.html>, accessed 6/27/11, HK]

A SENIOR astronomer has told a conference that we will make contact with aliens within two dozen years. The astronomer – Seth Shostak – has shocked skeptics by his remarks, made at a Yahoo-organised conference in California. "We'll find ET within two dozen years," said Seth, adding that his theory was based on a mixture of equations under Moore's Law and equipment that is likely to become available within the next few years. Shostak is part of the SETI (Search for Extra Terrestrial Intelligence) project, based in California, which is primarily focused on looking for life in space. Originally funded by NASA, the US space agency cut its support for the body when it failed to produce any concrete results. Over the last decade, Shostak’s SETI has been a non-profit organization, using innovative methods to secure its future. It is currently asking computer users to aid its research into radio waves, by using ther equipment to search for ET life. “Why let your home computer waste millions of CPU cycles running a screen saver when it could be analyzing SETI data?” it asks on its website.Computer users from around the world are being asked to participate in this “major scientific experiment” through its SETI@home project. This experiment is tied in with Shostak’s belief that we will be able to reach as far out as 500 light years into space by 2025 to find evidence of life, possibly through access to through radio broadcasts. Shostak will use the Allen Telescope Array, funded by Microsoft’s Paul Allen, in conjunction with the university at Berkeley, California, to see if he can detect life in outer space.

Link – Space Debris

Tracking space debris increases chance of contact

Mitchell, biochemist at Cambridge, 1990

(Peter, “Space Garbage,” New York Times, p. 18, December 9, NS)

SETI's use of radio telescopes to search for extraterrestrial intelligence is a brave attempt in the face of enormous odds ("SETI, Phone Home," by Howard Blum, Oct. 21). However, there may be another way to detect signs of extraterrestrial life. We know that all creatures, from viruses to Homo sapiens, have the tendency to produce materials, generally referred to as garbage (the kinds of things that archelogists look for in seeking signs of prior intelligence on earth). Life forms on other planets, similarly, might produce garbage that could escape into space via surface storms, volcanic action or nuclear explosions. Thus, a part of the SETI program might be to make a careful study of space debris and to study meteorites for the presence of any viral material.

While the SETI program continues its radio search of the heavens, a watch should be made for any unusual events. The sudden vaporization of a planet might indicate the prior presence of intelligence capable of making nuclear devices.

Links – Astronomy

Alien life will be found by astronomers-just a matter of when

Steigerwald, NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, 5/26/09

[Bill, NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, NASA, “EPOXI Team Develops New Method to Find Alien Oceans” <http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/epoxi/alien_ocean.html>, accessed 6/26/11, HK]

Astronomers have found more than 300 alien (extrasolar) worlds so far. Most of these are gas giants like Jupiter, and are either too hot (too close to their star) or too cold (too far away) to support life as we know it. Sometime in the near future, however, astronomers will probably find one that's just right – a planet with a solid surface that's the right distance for a temperature that allows liquid water -- an essential ingredient in the recipe for life. NASA-sponsored scientists looking back at Earth with the Deep Impact/EPOXI mission have developed a method to indicate whether Earth-like extrasolar worlds have oceans. "A 'pale blue dot' is the best picture we will get of an Earth-like extrasolar world using even the most advanced telescopes planned for the next couple decades," said Nicolas B. Cowan, of the University of Washington. "So how do we find out if it is capable of supporting life? If we can determine that the planet has oceans of liquid water, it greatly increases the likelihood that it supports life. We used the High Resolution Imager telescope on Deep Impact to look at Earth from tens of millions of miles away -- an 'alien' point of view -- and developed a method to indicate the presence of oceans by analyzing how Earth's light changes as the planet rotates. This method can be used to identify extrasolar ocean-bearing Earths." Cowan is lead author of a paper on this research appearing in the August 2009 issue of the Astrophysical Journal. Our planet looks blue all the time because of Rayleigh scattering of sunlight by the atmosphere, the same reason that the sky appears blue to us down on the surface, points out Cowan. "What we studied in this paper was how that blue color changes in time: oceans are bluer than continents, which appear red or orange because land is most reflective at red and near-infrared wavelengths of light. Oceans only reflect much at blue (short) wavelengths," said Cowan. The maps that the team created are only sensitive to the longitudinal (East - West) positions of oceans and continents. Furthermore, the observations only pick out what is going on near the equator of Earth: the equator gets more sunlight than higher latitudes, and the EPOXI spacecraft was above the equator when the observations were taken. These limitations of viewing geometry could plague observations of extrasolar planets as well: "We could erroneously see the planet as a desert world if it had a nearly solid band of continents around its equator and oceans at its poles," said Cowan. Other things besides water can make a planet appear blue; for example, in our solar system the planet Neptune is blue due in part to the presence of methane in its upper atmosphere. "However, a Neptune-like world would appear as an unchanging blue using this technique, and again it's the changes in the blue color that reveal oceans to us," said Cowan. "There are some weird scenarios you can dream up that don't involve oceans but would lead to varying patches of blue on a planet, but these are not very plausible." "A spectrum of the planet's light that reveals the presence of water is necessary to confirm the existence of oceans," said Drake Deming, a co-author of the paper at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Md. Instruments that produce a spectrum are attached to telescopes and spread out light into its component colors, like a prism separates white light into a rainbow. Every element and molecule emits and absorbs light at specific colors. These colors can be used like a fingerprint to identify them. "Finding the water molecule in the spectrum of an extrasolar planet would indicate that there is water vapor in its atmosphere, making it likely that the blue patches we were seeing as it rotates were indeed oceans of liquid water. However, it will take future large space telescopes to get a precise spectrum of such distant planets, while our technique can be used now as an indication that they could have oceans," said Deming. The technique only requires relatively crude spectra to get the intensity of light over broad color ranges, according to the team. NASA's Deep Impact made history when the mission team directed an impactor from the spacecraft into comet Tempel 1 on July 4, 2005. NASA recently extended the mission, redirecting the spacecraft for a flyby of comet Hartley 2 on Nov. 4, 2010. EPOXI is a combination of the names for the two extended mission components: a search for extrasolar planets during the cruise to Hartley 2, called Extrasolar Planet Observations and

Link – Astrobiology

NASA astrobiology on the brink of finding aliens

Chivers, Strategic Events Editor, 11/4/09

[Tom, “Darwinian evolutionary theory will help find alien life”, says Nasa scientist <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/science/space/6500471/Darwinian-evolutionary-theory-will-help-find-alien-life-says-Nasa-scientist.html>, accessed 6/26/11, HK]

In a talk marking the 150th anniversary of the publication of On the Origin of Species, a Nasa [scientist](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/science) said that Darwinian evolution will be the driving force of life anywhere in the universe, and we should use its predictions to decide where to look. Dr John Baross, a researcher at the [Nasa Astrobiology Institute](http://astrobiology.nasa.gov/), said: "I really feel that Darwinian evolution is a defining feature of all life. "And so the limits of Darwinian evolution will define the range of planets that can support life – at least Earth-like life." Speaking at a public lecture at the Nasa Ames Research Center in Mountain View, California, Dr Baross said that the [Kepler](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/science/space/4953688/Nasa-launches-Kepler-rocket-into-space-to-search-for-worlds-like-ours.html) [**Space**](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/science/space) Telescope’s mission, looking for Earth-like planets around other stars, made this an exciting time for astrobiology – the search for alien life. He said: "I predict in the next five to ten years, we will make discoveries that will lead to theories and ideas at least as profound as Darwin's."

Link – Asteroid Mining

Asteroid mining risks competing with other advanced civilizations

Shea 11 (Christopher. “To Find Extraterrestrial Life, Follow the Asteroid Mines”, April 12,

<http://blogs.wsj.com/ideas-market/2011/04/12/to-find-extraterrestrial-life-follow-the-asteroid-mines/>

As they train their telescopes on other solar systems, scientists should be on the lookout for signs of industrial-scale mining, two astronomers argue in a new paper.

The logic is quite straightforward, however outlandish-sounding: If other beings have developed advanced civilizations, they, too, may face the problem of dwindling natural resources.

And perhaps those beings will have the means to venture off their home planet in search of valuable minerals, just as humans may eventually wind up harvesting material from “our” asteroid belt.

Link - Solar Power Satellites

SPS increases ability to pursue space exploration – increases risk of contact

Mankins, former manager of NASA’s Advanced Concepts Studies Office of Space Flight 08

(John C.: [“Energy Free from Orbit,” http://www.nss.org/adastra/AdAstra-SBSP-2008.pdf)

At the same time, current space missions are narrowly constrained by a lack of energy for launch and use in space. More ambitious missions will never be realized without new, reliable, and less-expensive sources of energy. Even more, the potential emergence of new space industries such as space tourism and manufacturing in space depend on advances in space power systems just as much as they do on progress in space transportation. New energy options are needed: sustainable energy for society, clean energy for the climate, and affordable and abundant energy for use in space. Space solar power is an option that can meet all of these needs.

SPS provides power for space colonization

Mankins, former manager of NASA’s Advanced Concepts Studies Office of Space Flight, 8

(John C, “A Fresh Look at Space Solar Power: New Architectures, Concepts and Technologies,” http://www.spacefuture.com/archive/a\_fresh\_look\_at\_space\_solar\_power\_new\_architectures\_concepts\_and\_technologies.shtml)

Lastly, there are a number of potential applications of these technologies in future human exploration missions, including the moon, Mars and asteroids in the inner solar system. These include: megawatt-class SEPS Lunar cargo space transfer vehicles Lunar orbit WPT for Lunar surface power affordable human Mars mission transportation systems. Of these, the concept of using multi-megawatt-class SPS systems to achieve very low cost Mars mission concepts appears to have particular leverage. By using systems that are amenable to low-cost, multi-unit, modular manufacturing, even though the overall system masses are not lower, the cost appears to be significantly lower. Example: The "SolarClipper". An especially intriguing opportunity is that of using affordable megawatt-class space power for interplanetary space missions. It appears to be possible to reduce the cost for Earth surface-to-Mars orbit transportation dramatically through the use of very advanced, large-scale SPS in a solar electric propulsion system (SEPS) approach. The basic architectural strategies of the SolarClipper concept are straightforward.

AT: Aliens Don’t Exist

Computer models prove thousands of likely alien civilizations

Powlowski, CNN Science and Tech blogger, 9

(A. Powlowski “Galaxy May be full of ‘Earths,’ Alien Life”, http://www.cnn.com/2009/TECH/space/02/25/galaxy.planets.kepler/index.html)

Other scientists are taking another approach: an analysis that suggests there could be hundreds, even thousands, of intelligent civilizations in the Milky Way. Researchers at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland constructed a computer model to create a synthetic galaxy with billions of stars and planets. They then studied how life evolved under various conditions in this virtual world, using a supercomputer to crunch the results. Source: Space.com In a paper published recently in the International Journal of Astrobiology, the researchers concluded that based on what they saw, at least 361 intelligent civilizations have emerged in the Milky Way since its creation, and as many as 38,000 may have formed. Duncan Forgan, a doctoral candidate at the university who led the study, said he was surprised by the hardiness of life on these other worlds. "The computer model takes into account what we refer to as resetting or extinction events. The classic example is the asteroid impact that may have wiped out the dinosaurs," Forgan said. "I half-expected these events to disallow the rise of intelligence, and yet civilizations seemed to flourish."

Aliens exist—recent experiments prove

Romano, Senior Writer and Guterl, Senior Editor at Newsweek, 9

(Andrew and Fred, 8/24, Newsweek, Volume 154, Issue 8/9, EBSCO, “Aliens exist”) PG

But even if E.T. exists off the silver screen, the chances that he'll discover us any time soon are vanishingly slim (Reese's Pieces or not). After all, projects like SETI (Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence) have been waiting since 1960 for aliens to make contact--without hearing the slightest peep. The good news, however, is that some scientists are finally focusing on the other side of the equation: a series of high-tech missions designed to help us find them. And even at this early stage, the circumstantial evidence they've gathered has made it clear that **we're probably not alone in the universe**. Here's what we know. In 1995, Swiss **astronomers pinpointed the first-extrasolar planet**. Unfortunately, it was a -giant ball of gas orbiting so close to its sun that it glowed with enough heat and radiation to vaporize even the hardiest little green men. But at least **the discovery proved that planets occurred outside our own cozy solar system. A few years later, "super-Earths" started to reveal themselves--smaller, firmer, at a discrete distance from their companion stars.** Although these planets are much larger and less temperate than ours, they prompted some astronomers to estimate that perhaps half of the 200 billion or so suns in the Milky Way support terrestrial, Earth-like worlds. We've also discovered that **water, the essential ingredient for life, exists elsewhere in the universe**--starting with our own solar backyard. Robots have spotted gullies freshly carved in the sides of Martian hills--evidence of recent upwellings. In June, **astronomers observed geysers of water vapor** on Enceladus, one of Saturn's moons. Even ghastly Jupiter is a candidate--or at least its moons Ganymede, Callisto, and Europa, the last of which may have oceans larger than ours hidden beneath its crust of perpetual ice. The question now is how many of those 100 billion potential Earths can we reasonably expect to have harbored H2O and served as a cradle of life, intelligent or not? Enter Kepler, an ambitious new NASA mission. Launched via satellite in **March, Kepler's $600 million space telescope uses a sophisticated photometer to stare at all 100,000 stars located in a particularly promising region of the Milky Way while measuring the size and orbit of every planet that passes in front of them**. The larger the shadow, the larger the planet; the more often it appears, the closer the orbit. **The point is to isolate for the very first time alien worlds orbiting alien suns at distances where temperatures are right for liquid water and possible life**. "This mission is like Columbus," says principal investigator Bill Borucki. "We will get Earth-sized planets, terrestrial planets, in the habitable zone. It won't be 'close.' We will know. The concept behind Kepler isn't new. Borucki--the sort of guy who skipped high-school projects to build elaborate UFO transmitters--constructed his first photometer in college; he started thinking about how to apply the technology to the search for extraterrestrial life shortly after arriving at NASA in 1962. It wasn't until the early 1980s, however, that Borucki began publishing papers on photometry and pushing his bosses to finance a photometric mission. Their response? It's impossible. Undeterred, his team slaved over the project for the next two decades, inventing new technologies, showing they could achieve the necessary precision, and applying for additional funding at every turn, until finally, in 2001, NASA "said uncle," as Borucki puts it. After only 10 days in orbit, the satellite measured a dip in starlight of a few parts per million caused by a distant Jupiter, proving that it's sensitive enough to detect Earth-like planets. **By 2013, says Borucki, Kepler is likely to have located "hundreds or even thousands" of potentially** **habitable worlds.**

AT: Aliens Don’t Exist

Hundreds of civilizations exist

Tough, Professor Emeritus at the University of Toronto, ’00

(Allen, *Foundation for the Future*, 2000, “When SETI Succeeds: The Impact of High-Information Contact” www.futurefoundation.org/documents/hum\_pro\_wrk1.pdf,, p. 1, 21, July 2011) SW

In recent years, scientists and the general public have realized that intelligent life may well be found throughout the universe. It is extremely unlikely that we are the only civilization in our galaxy. It may even contain dozens or hundreds of civilizations scattered among its 400,000,000,000 stars. If we receive a richly detailed message from one of these civilizations or engage in a lively dialogue, the effects on our civilization could be pervasive and profound. Contact with intelligent life from somewhere else in our galaxy will probably occur sometime in humanity’s future. It might take the form of a richly detailed radio or laser message from the distant civilization, for instance, or a super-intelligent probe that reaches our planet. Such contact might occur next year, or 20 or 30 years from now, or not for 100 years, or even longer. Few events in the entire sweep of human history would be as significant and far-reaching, affecting our deepest beliefs about the nature of the universe, our place in it, and what lies ahead for human civilization.

The vastness of space means there are inevitably other advanced life forms

Shwartzman, professor of biology at Howard University, 2010

(David, “SETI Redux: Joining The Galactic Club,” *Astrobiology Magazine*, May 21, NS).

The first explanation is contrary to the subtext of astrobiology, the belief in quasi-deterministic astrophysical, planetary and biologic evolution. This view of life's inevitability in the cosmos is a view (or, shall I admit, a prejudice) I heartedly endorse. Most scientists active in the astrobiological research program would support an optimistic estimate of all the probabilities leading up to multicellular life on an Earth-like planet around a Sun-like star. I happen to be an optimist on this issue too. I have argued that encephalization - larger brain mass in comparison to body mass - and the potential for technical civilizations are not very rare results of self-organizing biospheres on Earth-like planets around Sun-like stars. Biotically-mediated climatic cooling creates the opportunity for big-brained multicellular organisms, such as the warm-blooded animals we observe on our planet. Note that several such animals have now been shown to pass the "mirror test" for self-consciousness: the great apes, elephants, dolphins and magpies, and the list is growing. But some, like my occasional collaborator Charley Lineweaver, an astrophysicist at Australian National University, are deep pessimists regarding the chances for other technical civilizations to emerge in the galaxy. He has argued, "humans and dolphins have 3.5 billion years of shared common ancestry. For 98 percent of our history, humans and dolphins were the same. The genes needed to develop those big brains had been fine-tuned over billions of years of evolution and were already in place." Lineweaver says that if advanced civilizations do emerge elsewhere in the galaxy, we can't expect they'll have human-like intelligence. This deserves an essay in itself. But if the pessimists concede just one of the millions if not billions of Earth-like planets is the platform for just one technical civilization that matures to a planetary stage, advancing beyond our present primitive self-destructive stage, just one advanced civilization with the curiosity to spread through the galaxy, at sub-light speeds with Bracewell probes to explore and document an Encyclopedia Galactica, then what should we expect?

Impact - Extinction

Aliens have gravity weapons a thousand times worse than nuclear weapons

India Daily 8

(Jan.30, “Gravity wave applications in Air Force – the technologies reverse engineered from Extraterrestrial UFOs”, <http://www.indiadaily.com/editorial/18998.asp>

The interaction of gravity waves and times form the basis of stability in the 3D universe. If that can be disturbed, the nastiest and most dangerous weapon systems can be created – thousand time worse than nuclear weapons.

When relatively immense amount of energy in applied on a point, the effect is amazing. According to some contemporary physicists, it is possible to detach the space from time in a very local area to create havoc in adversary’s weapon systems. Some extraterrestrial UFOs do that all the time to escape the 3D mesh and enter the galactic black holes. They detach the space from time in a very controlled manner. It is similar to using nuclear energy in a controlled chain reaction to generate energy versus uncontrolled manner for the purpose of destruction.

Many have suggested, extraterrestrial warfare created planets like Mars. Mars was full of life and some how it lost all its electromagnetic properties to become a barren red planet. Mars may have observed the effects of detaching time from space in a local area.

Impact – Conquer & Colonize Humanity

Alien contact leads to conquering humanity

Sheridan 10 (Michael, Daily News staff writer, New York Daily News, “Stephen Hawking on 'Into the Universe with Stephen Hawking': Contact with aliens could get us killed”, 4/25/10, <http://articles.nydailynews.com/2010-04-25/entertainment/27062654_1_alien-life-space-exploration-intelligent-life>, accessed 6/29/11, CW)

Famed physicist Stephen Hawking delivered a chilling warning on a recent television special, "Into the Universe with Stephen Hawking." Aliens are out there... and we need to stop trying to talk to them, he says. "We only have to look at ourselves to see how intelligent life might develop into something we wouldn't want to meet," the award-winning British scientist said in the series for the Discovery Channel. To drive the point home, Hawking argued that aliens visiting Earth would likely be the same as when explorers first arrived in the New World. "If aliens visit us, the outcome would be much as when Columbus landed in America, which didn't turn out well for the Native Americans," he said. If aliens in space ships did come to Earth, Hawking suggests, they may be more "V" than "E.T." "Such advanced aliens would perhaps become nomads, looking to conquer and colonize whatever planets they can reach," he said, arguing that they may have taken to the stars because they depleted resources on their home world.

Alien contact bad – they would be so advanced they would likely conquer the Earth taking no prisoners

Heussner 10 (Ki Mae, staff writer for ABC news, ABC news, “Stephen Hawking: Alien Contact Could be Dangerous”, 4/26/10, <http://abcnews.go.com/Technology/Space/stephen-hawking-alien-contact-risky/story?id=10478157>, accessed 6/29/11, CW)

Alien encounters may seem like sure-fire winners to Hollywood, but one of the world's most famous scientists thinks they may be "too risky" be be worth seeking. In a new [Discovery Channel documentary](http://dsc.discovery.com/tv/stephen-hawking/about/about.html), which premiered Sunday night, [British astrophysicist Stephen Hawking](http://abcnews.go.com/Technology/Science/wireStory?id=7387031) said that [communicating with aliens could be a threat](http://abcnews.go.com/Technology/wireStory?id=10475239) to Earth. Hawking [said it is likely that alien life exists](http://abcnews.go.com/Technology/video/stephen-hawking-alien-theory-10474793), but a visit from extraterrestrials might be similar to Christopher Columbus' arrival in the Americas. "If aliens visit us, the outcome would be much as when Columbus landed in America, which didn't turn out well for the Native Americans," he said. "We only have to look at ourselves to see how intelligent life might develop into something we wouldn't want to meet." In the new program, "Into the Universe with [Stephen Hawking](http://topics.abcnews.go.com/topic/Stephen-Hawking)," he speculated that aliens' capabilities "would be only limited by how much power they could harness and control, and that could be far more than we might first imagine." He said it might even be possible for aliens to harvest the energy from an entire star. "Such advanced aliens would perhaps become nomads, looking to conquer and colonize whatever planets they can reach," Hawking said.

Hawking compares aliens to colonialists

Capriccioso, Staff reporter for Indian Country Today, 10

[Rob, Trueslant, 4/26/10, http://trueslant.com/robcapriccioso/2010/04/26/stephen-hawking-compares-evil-space-aliens-to-american-colonists/,accessed 6/21/11, HK]

Stephen Hawking says humanity should beware of space aliens because they could be just as dangerous as colonists were to American Indians. “If aliens ever visit us, I think the outcome would be much as when Christopher Columbus first landed in America, which didn’t turn out very well for the Native Americans,” the leading scientist said in a recent interview promoting a new Discovery documentary. The danger appears all the more real, since Hawking believes the odds of aliens existing are mathematically pretty good. Most of those aliens would probably be simple creatures, he said, but some could come ready to raid, plunder, and destroy Earth. So we should just be quiet, and not try to attract them, the scientist believes. A problem with that plan: no recorded history suggests that Native Americans reached out to colonizers to attract them to the “New World.” Nope, Columbus and friends just stumbled upon it. And then did what they did. Just like the aliens might do to Earth.

Impact - Domination

Physical contact with ET would lead to domination

Chaisson, Harvard Research Professor, 2k (Eric J., “When SETI Succeeds: The Impact of High-Information Contact”, p59, Google Books) PG

**Should contact with ETI be physical**, even as a mere ceremonial visitation, then **the impact could be large and negative for our species**. I refer to the universality of physical and chemical phenomena in the cosmos, and by extension to the subjects of biology and its allied behavioral sciences. **In short, if neo- Darwinism (or some version of it) holds cosmically, meaning that competition is at least part of any complex being’s methodology, then it is not inconceivable that they (who will be, again, more advanced than we are) would dominate us.** Not that they would “come and eat us”—though they might; we do, in fact, consume many other, “lesser” species—and not that their alien posture toward us would be overtly hostile. Rather, **dominance is likely to be the natural, indeed perhaps inevitable, stance of any advanced life form. It is just as reasonable to argue that advanced life, anywhere in the cosmos, will tend to control other** **life (as well as controlling matter and radiation locally**) if given the opportunity and if in physical contact, as it is to suggest that positive consequences will result from our detection of and inter- action with extraterrestrial intelligence.

Contact with aliens would lead to domination

Harrison Professor Emeritus, Psychology, University of California, Davis 2k (Albert A., “When SETI Succeeds: The Impact of High-Information Contact”, p20, Google Books) PG

Contact with powerful societies poses certain risks in addition to possible challenges to our self-conﬁdence. One such risk is domination, whether resulting from military subjugation or misguided attempts to impose their superior ways on less-advanced societies. A perfect civilization could take pity on a poor, struggling civilization such as our own, uplift it, and in the process destroy our unique properties. Dominance may be a natural, indeed inevitable, stance of any advanced life form. Drawing on simplistic notions of survival of the ﬁttest, it is easy to argue that advanced life elsewhere in the cosmos will tend to control other life. Yet discussions of contact have downplayed the possibility of military subjugation. Immense interstellar distances would make it extremely expensive and difﬁcult, if not impossible, to conduct interstellar warfare. Furthermore, we expect that many of the justiﬁcations for war will be absent (for example, an advanced spacefaring civilization would have plenty of unoccupied land for the taking). And, as repeatedly noted, many have speculated that societies with great longevity have advanced beyond war. A very large and important question is how advanced societies would treat us. Will they consider us equals, protégés, or inferiors?

ETI bad – physical contact will be violent and detrimental to the human race

Chaisson Harvard PhD Professor at Tufts University 2000

(Eric,: “Null or Negative Effects of ETI Contact in the Next Millennium”, When SETI Succeeds: The Impact of High-Information Contact, Edited Allen Tough p. 59 <http://ieti.org/tough/books/succeeds/sectIVt5.pdf> MLF 6-21-11)

Should contact with ETI be physical, even as a mere ceremonial visitation, then the impact could be large and negative for our species. I refer to the universality of physical and chemical phenomena in the cosmos, and by extension to the subjects of biology and its allied behavioral sciences. In short, if neoDarwinism (or some version of it) holds cosmically, meaning that competition is at least part of any complex being’s methodology, then it is not inconceivable that they (who will be, again, more advanced than we are) would dominate us. Not that they would “come and eat us”—though they might; we do, in fact, consume many other, “lesser” species—and not that their alien posture toward us would be overtly hostile. Rather, dominance is likely to be the natural, indeed perhaps inevitable, stance of any advanced life form . It is just as reasonable to argue that advanced life, anywhere in the cosmos, will tend to control other life (as well as controlling matter and radiation locally) if given the opportunity and if in physical contact, as it is to suggest that positive consequences will result from our detection of and interaction with extraterrestrial intelligence.

Impact - Genocide

New civilizations will lead to genocide – Australia proves

Bhathal PhD Professor at the University of Western Sydney 2000

(Dr. Ragbir PhD Professor at the University of Western Sydney: When SETI Succeeds: The Impact of High-Information Contact Edited by Allen Tough “Human Analogues May Portend ET

Conduct Toward Humanity” p. 57 <http://ieti.org/tough/books/succeeds/sectIVt5.pdf> MLF 6-21-11)

SETI literature normally ascribes attributes of goodness, humaneness, and a general willingness of ETI civilizations to assist the less advanced civilizations. From a Darwinian perspective, this will not necessarily be the case. This is very well illustrated by an analogue from planet Earth. At the end of the 18th century an advanced civilization landed in Australia and confronted the Aboriginal peoples of Australia. The advanced civilization had passed through the hunter and gatherer stage and the agricultural stage, and was, at the end of the 18th century, at the height of its technological development. It was at a stage where it could move over the entire oceanic and terrestrial space on Earth. When the advanced civilization arrived in Australia, there was a gap of over 10,000 years between the techrnologies of the advanced civilization and that of the Aboriginal peoples. Rather than treating the Aboriginal peoples in a civilized and humane manner, the advanced civilization took over their lands and in Tasmania the Aboriginal population was wiped out. It was one of the greatest genocides in the history of human civilization.

Communications bad – ET’s will eliminate us with their advanced technology

Bhathal, PhD Professor at the University of Western Sydney 2000

(Dr. Ragbir PhD Professor at the University of Western Sydney: When SETI Succeeds: The Impact of High-Information Contact Edited by Allen “Tough Human Analogues May Portend ET

Conduct Toward Humanity” p. 57 <http://ieti.org/tough/books/succeeds/sectIVt5.pdf> MLF 6-21-11)

Let us look at another scenario. It may be the case that an advanced civilization need not actually make physical contact with us. ETI civilizations could use human proxies on Earth to do their bidding through high-technology intelligent probes and the galactic internet. Thus a powerful group of human proxies may be given the knowledge and technology by ETI for the control and manipulation of human populations for political and social agendas of the ETI civilization. Again, we have human analogues for this scenario. If this happens, human civilization will be in for a long culture shock and it may not recover from the disruption of its institutions.

**Impact – Culture Shock**

Physical contact with ETI leads to the end of the human civilization

Bhathal PhD Professor at Western Sydney University 2000

(Dr. Ragbir “Human Analogues May Portend ET Conduct Toward Humanity" When SETI Succeeds: The Impact of High-Information Contact, Edited by Allen Tough, p. 57 http://ieti.org/tough/books/succeeds/sectIVt5.pdf MLF 6-21-11)

Will a much more advanced civilization do the same with us if and when they discover planet Earth

within a thousand years from now? If a discovery and physical contact are made with ETI civilizations in

the distant future, the culture shock we will experience will be extremely disruptive and continue for

several centuries. Our institutions will be incapable of handling the crisis and it may be the end of human civilization, as we know it today. This has been the case with the Aboriginal peoples

in Australia. They are still recovering from the contact they made with a technologically advanced civilization at the end of the 18th century.

Impact - Disease

Contact causes ET disease spread – Extinction

Bauma, Department of Geography, Pennsylvania State University et al 11

[Seth D. Bauma, Jacob D. Haqq-Misrab, and Shawn D. Domagal-Goldmanc, Department of Geography, Pennsylvania State University, Department of Meteorology, Pennsylvania State University, NASA Planetary Science Division, Acta Astronautica Volume 68, Issues 11-12, June-July 2011, Pages 2114-2129, Would contact with extraterrestrials benefit or harm humanity? A scenario analysis]

If humanity comes into direct physical contact with either ETI themselves or some ETI artifact, then it may be possible for humanity to be unintentionally harmed. One of the most prominent scenarios of this kind is the transmission of disease to humanity. This scenario is inspired by the many instances in which humans and other species on Earth have suffered severely from diseases introduced from other regions of the planet. Such diseases are spread via the global travels of humans and our cargo and also through certain other disease vectors. Introduced diseases have been extremely potent because the population receiving the disease has no prior exposure to it and thus no build-up of immunity. Indeed, disease introductions are blamed for loss of human life so widespread as to have altered the broadest contours of human history [83]. If ETI could introduce disease to humanity, then the impacts could be – but would not necessarily be – devastating. The disease could quite easily be significantly different from anything our immune systems have ever encountered before. The disease could also be entirely unfamiliar to our medical knowledge, and it could potentially be highly contagious and highly lethal. This combination of contagiousness (i.e. high R0 [84]) and lethality (i.e. high mortality rate) is unlikely in existing pathogens because such pathogens would quickly kill their host population and then die out themselves. Furthermore, if we had already encountered such a disease on Earth, then we likely would not be here anymore. However, a disease from ETI would be new to us. It presumably would not be highly contagious and lethal to the ETI themselves or to the other organisms in their biosphere, but it could be devastating to humans and the Earth system. Then again, ETI biology may be so vastly different from Earth biology that no significant interactions between organisms occur. ETI may have their own contagious diseases that are unable to infect humans or Earth-life because we are not useful hosts for ETI pathogens. After all, the ETI diseases would have evolved separately from Earth biota and thus be incompatible. So while there are reasons to believe that an ETI disease which affected humanity would be devastating, there are also reasons to believe that an ETI disease would not affect humanity. It is worth noting that a disease brought by an ETI could harm us without infecting us. This would occur if the disease infects other organisms of interest to us. For example, ETI could infect organisms important to our food supply, such as crop plants or livestock animals. A non-human infection would be less likely to destroy humanity and more likely to only harm us by wiping out some potentially significant portion of our food supply. In a more extreme case, ETI disease could cause widespread extinction of multiple species on Earth, even if humans remain uninfected.

Impact – Invasive Species

E.T. could be invasion species and harm humanity

Baum et al., scholar at Columbia University's Center for Research on Environmental Decisions, 11

(Seth D, PhD candidate in Pennsylvania State University's Geography Department, Jacob D. Haqq-Misrab, Department of Meteorology, Pennsylvania State University, and Shawn D, NASA Planetary Science Division ,“Would contact with extraterrestrials benefit or harm humanity? A scenario analysis” Acta Astronautica, Volume 68, Issues 11-12, June-July 2011, pages 2114-2129, http://www.sciencedirect.com.ezproxy.baylor.edu/science/article/pii/S0094576510003917) KA

Diseases are not the only physical hazard we may unintentionally face from ETI. A similar biological hazard is the invasive species. Whereas a disease infects and harms an organism by overwhelming its immune system, an invasive species affects and harms an ecosystem by overwhelming its ecological functions. The distinction between diseases and invasive species is at most a blurry one. A disease can at least sometimes be classified as an invasive species. Some diseases, such as viral diseases, are not well-classified as species, while some diseases are not invasive because they have a permanent and entrenched status within their host population. Likewise, some invasive species are not diseases per se but instead are harmful in other ways. For example, an introduced predator is a disease only in a metaphorical sense.

Impact Calculus

Must prepare for the worst

Jha, science and environment correspondent at the Guardian, 11

(Alok, “Earth must prepare for close encounter with aliens, say scientists”, Jan 10, The Guardian,

http://www.guardian.co.uk/science/2011/jan/10/earth-close-encounter-aliens-extraterrestrials)

According to Simon Conway Morris, a professor of evolutionary palaeobiology at Cambridge University, anyone planning for alien contact should prepare for the worst.

Evolution on alien worlds, he said, is likely to be Darwinian in nature. Morris argues that life anywhere else in the universe will therefore probably have important similarities with life on Earth – especially if it comes from Earth-like worlds that have similar biological molecules to ours. That means ET might resemble us, warts and all, with our tendencies towards violence and exploitation.

"Why should we 'prepare for the worst'? First, if intelligent aliens exist, they will look just like us, and given our far from glorious history, this should give us pause for thought," wrote Morris in the journal's special issue.

AT: Alien Threat Construction

Reading the DA solves the link – the figure of the alien is so destabilizing that to even engage this discourse calls rationality into question, solves the impact

Dean , Professor of Political Theory at Hobart and William Smith Colleges ‘97

(Jodi, John Hopkins University Press “The Familiarity of Strangeness: Aliens, Citizens, and Abduction” Project MUSE, June 21, 2011, BLG)

Despite their persuasive force, I worry that the critiques might be too limited because they still allow, indeed, require, the possibility of a group of "us," a mainstream, a public, who speak a common language and employ a common rationality. This common rationality is the standard by which deviations, irrationalities, are judged, through which exclusions are not only effected but discerned. Differences end up deposited onto some set of others, onto unfamiliar strangers. I am interested in situations where deployments of this supposedly common rationality, discussions in this common language produce strange, contradictory, incredible, irrational results. I am interested in discourses like that of ufology where participants think they speak and reason like everyone else, but everyone else finds what they are saying incomprehensible and irrational. I'm interested because this is the situation of America at the millennium.

No link - Our DA doesn’t create an us/them dichotomy, it instead calls into question the entire edifice of what constitute “us”

Dean , Professor of Political Theory at Hobart and William Smith Colleges ‘97

(Jodi, John Hopkins University Press “The Familiarity of Strangeness: Aliens, Citizens, and Abduction” Project MUSE, June 21, 2011, BLG)

The UFO community's sense of exclusion stems from its perception that most people, especially scientists, the media, and government officials, ridicule belief in extraterrestrial contact with earth. Many who think they have seen a UFO are reluctant to talk about it outside safe, supportive circles. I've been surprised at how many of my academic colleagues have come to me with their UFO stories since I began this research.19 Abductees in particular say they are wary of talking about their experiences for fear that people will think they are crazy--a sentiment expressed by many women in early CR sessions in the 1970s. So when I ask what the UFO community reveals about "us," I'm seeing it as a microcosm of some broader American public. "Us" refers to anyone. It signals a white middle class while acknowledging differences in sex, class, and ethnicity. Yet "us" problematizes the notion of a "center" and the possibility of generality by focusing on a set of experiences and beliefs with marginalizing effects. It gestures simultaneously toward strangers, towards those disdained by society at large. To reiterate, by destabilizing ideas of us and them, center and margin, inside and outside, I want to complicate theorization of American culture and politics. Both radical and traditional accounts of citizenship and collective identity attribute some coherence to the notion of a public sphere. Whether norms of public reason are considered oppressive and exclusionary or the pentacle of the planet's expression of freedom, the idea that the mainstream, the general populace, the community at large shares a set of common assumptions about reality is rarely challenged. UFO belief is one of those rare challenges.

No Impact - Otherization & violence are inevitable

Stutzman, Goshen College 5

(Kathryn, , “Are war and violence natural?” http://www.goshen.edu/bio/Biol410/bsspapers05/Kat.html)

Throughout history humans have fought wars, committed murders, and perpetuated violence. There have been few times of real peace. These wars have been fought over resources, religious beliefs, and land. With a look at history, anger, aggression, and violence seem to be something naturally human. Still, before the 1970's, some scientists maintained that organized conflict and intra-specific killing was something not intrinsic to human nature, or nature as a whole. Instead, human wars were the result of a coincidence of aggression and tool making (Lorenz 1966). Those individuals who maintain this viewpoint today are not taking into account some fairly recent animal behavioral research. There is support for arguments of an evolutionary advantage to these violent behaviors. The fact remains though, that intra-species violence and killing are natural phenomenon in many social animals including human's closest relative, the chimpanzee (Goodall 1999). The implication that human warfare is a result of natural tendencies toward violence has a significant impact on pacifist philosophy, yet conflict transformation theory offers some solutions for the future of pacifism.

\*\*\*AFF\*\*\*

2AC – N/U, No Impact and Long T/F

Aliens contact inevitable – detectible transmission have been leaking from Earth for last 100 years, BUT timeframe is thousands of years away AND they are just as likely to be friendly

Heussner 10 (Ki Mae, staff writer for ABC news, ABC news, “Stephen Hawking: Alien Contact Could be Dangerous”, 4/26/10, <http://abcnews.go.com/Technology/Space/stephen-hawking-alien-contact-risky/story?id=10478157>, accessed 6/29/11, CW)

Humans Only Recently 'Tapped Into Our Cosmic Neighborhood'

But don't start worrying quite yet. It's unlikely that those traveling troublemakers will visit us anytime soon, said space watchers. Jill Tarter, director of the Center for SETI (Search for Extraterrestrial Life) Research at the [SETI Institute](http://www.seti.org/), said that her center uses radio telescopes and optical telescopes to listen for signals of technology from extraterrestrial life. So far, after more than 40 years, there has not been a peep. She said SETI's technology is advanced enough that it can detect signals from up to 1,000 light-years away. There are about one million stars in that zone. A signal could have been sent 1,000 years ago, before that civilization had any knowledge of Earth. Scientists Search for Extraterrestrial Life But she said that as [humans have leaked radio and television broadcasts into space](http://blogs.abcnews.com/scienceandsociety/2008/01/anyone-out-ther.html) over the past 100 years, it's possible that other planets could be monitoring Earth. "It's quite reasonable that we might be on someone's transmission list," she said. She emphasized, however, that though it's an effort worth considering, SETI doesn't actively transmit messages to space. So far, it has only listened. "The question of whether or not we should transmit is a question that deserves a global conversation, and we're trying to figure out how to have that," Tarter said. Ian O'Neill, space producer for Discovery News, an [ABC News](http://abcnews.go.com/) partner, said that humans didn't start leaking transmissions into space until the first radio broadcasts about 100 years ago. Given that our galaxy alone is 100,000 light years across, relatively speaking, he said, those signals haven't traveled too far. "We've only tapped into our cosmic neighborhood recently," he said." That time scale is huge." He also said that though scientists believe that life exists across the universe, there's no actual evidence of it yet. It could be hundreds, if not thousands, of years, he said, before human messages get an extraterrestrial response. And if aliens do visit Earth, who knows what they would be like, he said. "This is all complete specuation," he said. "[Hawking's] point is very much one-sided. There's an equal chance of meeting a friendly race, like our own." Tarter, asked about Hawking's vision of aggressive aliens, said there's a "huge range of possibilities and lots of speculation." "Stephen's is one and [though] he's a brilliant man, I'm not quite sure that his opinion has any more authority over mine or anyone else's," she said. "It's just a question. We don't know the answer."

Non-Unique

Extraterrestrials have awareness of humans already

Tough, PhD UChic, 91

(Allen, Prof. OISE, founded Invit. to ETI, Journal of British Interplanetary Society, Vol. 39, pp 492, “What Role will extraterrestrials play in humanity’s future?”) PG

It is highly likely that some advanced extraterrestrials know about us. In addition to basic knowledge about us. they may also have highly detailed information.This conclusion is based on two factors: capacity and motiva­tion. We saw in the previous section how highly advanced the capacities at someexlraterrestrialsarc, compared to our present level of development It seems highly likely that they are capable of observing, monitoring, or studying us if they wish to do so. Believing that we "vastly underrate the abilities of LI I." John Ball has stated that "we'll certainly start studying and cataloguing biosystcms in the Galaxy as soon as we're able: why should ETI do less?" (SJ. Their motivations to do so might include their own protection and security, and their desire to help us develop. In addition, they could be motivated by curiosity and scientific study; for example, within the field of comparative civilisations, some scholars may study the similarities and differences among various civilisations and planets in our Galaxy. On their equiva­lent of videocasseties, some extraterrestrials may want to record certain aspects of our musk, art, games, recreation, loving deeds, thoughts, laws, customs, insights, appearance, dwelling places, technology, culture, and landscape.

No Link - Aliens Don’t Exist

Scientific consensus is on our side – no intelligent life beyond earth

Cookson, Science Editor and Griffith, US science correspondent at Financial Times 2k

(Clive and Victoria, “Our Odyssey ends here: Man’s quest for self-discovery is at a dead-end with the acceptance that we are alone in space”, Financial Times, December 30, L/N)

Yet, since the film was first shown in 1968, scientific opinion has gradually shifted away from the belief in smart aliens. Where science moves, the public usually follows. This may seem an odd statement, considering the number of recent media reports about extraterrestrial life. Signs of water on Mars and Europa, a moon of Jupiter, have encouraged speculation about alien creatures. Yet the type of life astronomers talk about these days is "dumb", not intelligent. The great hope of Nasa's Mars missions is to find evidence of microbes, living or dead. Martian bacteria would certainly be an important find, but they are a big step down from the little green men of earthlings' imagination. Even veterans of SETI, as the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence is known, are beginning to sound more sceptical. Frank Drake, chairman of the SETI Institute in California, has dreamt of discovering life on other planets for 40 years. Every day, he and his colleagues attempt to pick up radio signals from other planets. Every day, they go home empty-handed. "There may be no complex organisms out there," says Drake. "The chances of tool-bearing organisms who could send out a signal are even more remote. There is intelligent life in the oceans, for example, but the whales and dolphins wouldn't be able to communicate with another planet." Astronomers' growing scepticism about intelligent life on other planets is fuelled partly by changes in thinking about Darwin's theory of evolution. Kubrick dedicates the first quarter of 2001 to a segment called "The Dawn of Man". The movie explores the notion that alien intervention 4m years ago transformed apes from vegetarian victims into tool-bearing carnivores, kick-starting their evolution into human beings. While the film's notion of evolutionary "progress" is vague, Kubrick's Dawn of Man sequence reflects the famous Darwinian idea that apes gradually became more upright and more intelligent until they turned into modern homo sapiens. This view allows humans to see themselves at the pinnacle of the evolutionary tree - so far. Who knows what kind of superior beings may lie on the evolutionary path ahead? Just a few years after the movie's debut, however, a new twist on Darwinism radically altered this view. In 1972 palaeontologist Stephen Jay Gould and his colleague Niles Eldredge developed the theory of "punctuated equilibria", according to which the most important evolutionary changes are not a gradual progression but radical and swift. Research in geology and palaeontology since then has emphasised the random nature of such biological shifts. Species are formed not by the movement to greatness but by a series of "accidents". If the evolutionary tape were to be rewound a thousand times, nothing like human beings would appear again. Had the dinosaurs not been wiped out by a cataclysmic event, mammals would have been a mere footnote in the evolutionary bible. And if human beings are merely an "accident" - a small twig on the evolutionary tree, as Gould likes to say - then the likelihood that creatures like ourselves would exist on other planets seems very remote indeed. At the same time, some astronomers say the conditions in which intelligent life evolved on Earth are extra-ordinary enough to make it likely that we are alone in our galaxy, if not in the universe. In their influential book Rare Earth (Springer, Pounds 17), Peter Ward and Donald Brownlee of the University of Washington list the factors that make Earth so special: Its distance from the sun has ensured the existence of liquid water for 3.5bn years. It has the right mass to retain atmosphere and oceans. Plate tectonics built land masses. Jupiter, its giant neighbour, has protected Earth from too many life-extinguishing collisions with asteroids and comets, while allowing a few to punctuate the evolutionary equili-brium. Its orbit around the sun is stable. There is enough carbon to support life but not to allow runaway greenhouse heating. Radiation levels promote genetic change without causing lethal damage.

No Link - Aliens Don’t Exist

Earthlike conditions are rare – even if they are common – unique circumstances make intelligent life possible that are unlikely to exist elsewhere

Crawford, Professor of Astronomy and Physics at University College in London 2k

(Ian, , Scientific American, “Where Are They? Maybe We Are Alone In the Galaxy After All”, July, Volume 283, Issue 1, p. 38-43)

To my mind, the history of life on Earth suggests a more convincing explanation. Living things have existed here almost from the beginning, but multicellular animal life did not appear until about 700 million years ago. For more than three billion years, Earth was inhabited solely by single-celled microorganisms. This time lag seems to imply that the evolution of anything more complicated than a single cell is unlikely. Thus, the transition to multicelled animals might occur on only a tiny fraction of the millions of planets that are inhabited by single-celled organisms. It could be argued that the long solitude of the bacteria was simply a necessary precursor to the eventual appearance of animal life on Earth. Perhaps it took this long—and will take a comparable length of time on other inhabited planets—for bacterial photosynthesis to produce the quantities of atmospheric oxygen required by more complex forms of life. But even if multicelled life-forms do eventually arise on all life bearing planets, it still does not follow that these will inevitably lead to intelligent creatures, still less to technological civilizations. As pointed out by Stephen Jay Gould in his book Wonderful Life, the evolution of intelligent life depends on a host of essentially random environmental influences. This contingency is illustrated most clearly by the fate of the dinosaurs. They dominated this planet for 140 million years yet never developed a technological civilization. Without their extinction, the result of a chance event, evolutionary history would have been very different. The evolution of intelligent life on Earth has rested on a large number of chance events, at least some of which had a very low probability. In 1983 physicist Brandon Carter concluded that “civilizations comparable with our own are likely to be exceedingly rare, even if locations as favorable as our own are of common occurrence in the galaxy.”

No Impact – AT: Extinction

Alien contact would have several positive influences on humans—negative consequences are unlikely

Surette, staff writer Ottawa Citizen, 99

(Louise, The Ottawa Citizen, August 12, Lexis, “Professor predicts first contact with aliens some time next century: It's time to prepare for impact on society, Toronto academic warns” http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/skeptic/message/26284) PG

**Scientists and the public have, in recent years, come to realize there is the distinct possibility that life on other planets exists, says Mr. Tough, and the effect of contact on human civilization will be profound**. ''We must keep in mind that some of the intelligent life in our galaxy may be deeply alien to us. Their thinking patterns, knowledge, emotions, bodies, perception and communication may be even stranger than our strangest science-fiction images, '' he writes. Douglas Vakoch, a psychologist with the Search for Extra Terrestrial Intelligence Institute in Mountainview, California, agrees. The organization, which has affiliates all over the world, is currently monitoring radio signals in anticipation of any signals from life in outer space. If the event is negative, it could possibly mean the extinction of humanity. However, he says this is very unlikely. ''What would probably happen is that any hostile society would wipe themselves out before they became highly advanced enough to travel to other planets,'' he said in an interview from his home in Toronto. On the positive side, aliens could provide practical information that could help human civilization survive. They could also provide answers to some major questions about life and the universe -- because the chances are the extra- terrestrials would be much older than us, as our planet is relatively young in comparison to many of the stars that are in the universe.'' Topics in a message could include astrophysics, the origin and evolution of the universe, religious questions and the meaning of life.''

No Impact – AT: Colonization

Historical analogies to colonization are flawed – contact will most likely be peaceful, small scale and biologically uncontaminated with no risk of culture shock

Dominik, University of St Andrews, School of Physics and Astronomy and Zarnecki, Planetary and Space Sciences Research Institute 11

(Martin and John C. “The detection of extra-terrestrial life and the consequences for science and society”, Philosophical Transaction of the Royal Society A, Feb 13, vol. 369 no. 1936 499-507, http://rsta.royalsocietypublishing.org/content/369/1936/499.full

If data are absent or ambiguous, we tend to argue by retreating to analogies or theories about universalities. Historical examples, however, need to be well understood before these can serve as a guide, which is demonstrated by the fact that history is full of misinterpretations and misconceptions of itself (cf. [48,49]). Rather than aliens invading Earth, most likely detection scenarios will involve microbial organisms and/or extra-terrestrial life at a safe distance that prevents physical contact. As far as exploring other life forms is concerned, any strategy applied must exclude biological contamination—not only to protect ourselves, but also to preserve any alien life discovered as part of an overall commitment to enhancing the richness and the diversity of life in the Universe [16]. For such scenarios with well-contained risks, the dominant human response is unlikely to be one of fear and pandemonium [48]. Human perceptions and representations of alien life will not only derive from science, but, given that humanity is more than just a collection of logic and facts, they will be highly influenced by cultural and psychological factors. Therefore, reactions will not necessarily be homogeneous, and reality may defy common myths [49]. It is believed by some that establishing the presence of extra-terrestrial life as a fact will cause a crisis for certain religious faiths. A survey, however, shows that followers of all the main religious denominations as well as atheists declare that it will not be a problem for their own beliefs [50].

No Impact – AT: Violent Aliens

No threat to humanity

Felton, science fiction author,10 (Dave, “Alien Contact”,

http://ezinearticles.com/?Alien-Contact&id=4421700)

Space represents a similar new frontier, but there is one important difference. Space is infinite. There is no necessity to compete over resources as there are always other places to travel to. Any culture that could travel the vast distances to arrive at Earth does not necessarily have to be a threat to humanity as Dr Hawking would have us believe, even though they will be far in advance of us technologically.

Of course there is one sure way in which we can remain safe from hostile contact from an alien race and that is not by hiding on planet Earth and hoping no one notices us as Dr Hawking advised. We must surely go into space as bold explorers and advance our own technology to the point where we no longer have anything to fear from alien contact.

If we found aliens they wouldn’t be hostile towards our civilization

Tough PhD Professor at the University of Toronto 91

(Allen Tough PhD Professor at the University of Toronto: “Intelligent Life in the Universe: What Role Will It Play in Our Future?” 1991 <http://ieti.org/tough/articles/bok.htm> MLF 6-21-11)

I concluded that most or all of the advanced civilizations in the universe avoid harming fledgling civilizations. The cardinal principle guiding behavior toward all other civilizations is probably this: avoid unnecessary harm and interference. Do not hurt any other civilization, nor hinder their development. If another civilization is clearly about to break the cardinal rule (through a powerful attack or through spreading a plague, for instance), and if this poses a definite and immediate threat to an advanced species, then it is permissible to intervene powerfully and even harmfully in order to prevent this. Under any other circumstances, however, an advanced civilization will probably not interfere harmfully in the development of another civilization.

There are several reasons for concluding that advanced beings are helpful or at least benign, and are unlikely to harm fledgling civilizations such as ours. Here are the main reasons:

1. They still recall their own early history, including their primitive stages, their dark periods, and their follies; therefore, they may feel sympathetic toward our foibles.

2. Anyone bent on capturing our planet would have done so long ago, before we despoiled it so much.

3. Any hostile civilization with advanced technology would have programmed its robot Replicator probes to eliminate any potential civilization long before reaching the stage at which it could attack the Replicator; that is, long before our present stage (O'Neill, 198l, p. 265).

4. Advanced civilizations are probably letting us develop freely, without interference, in order to maximize the amount of information they gain; if they interfere and control us, they will learn less (Kuiper and Morris, 1977). Their greatest gain from us may be sociological and anthropological knowledge about our culture and civilization.

5. Intelligent life forms that are destructively aggressive and irresponsible will usually eliminate themselves or revert back to primitive conditions before they achieve interstellar communication or travel (Harrison, 198l). If a ruthlessly hostile species manages to avoid these usual consequences of natural selection, and then prepares for interstellar communication or travel, it may well be terminated by more advanced beings in the galaxy. "How this is done is a matter of more than academic interest to the human race in the next few centuries," adds Harrison, wryly.

No Impact - Peaceful

Any alien civilization advanced enough to contact will be peaceful

Tow, Director of The future of Life Research Centre, 10

(David, “The Future of Life- SETI- Aliens and Ethics”, 26 January, http://www.australia.to/2010/index.php?option=com\_content&view=article&id=666:the-future-of-life-seti-aliens-and-ethics&catid=76:david-tow&Itemid=144

There has been a debate for many years within the general public and SETI communities as to whether aliens from other worlds, if they exist, would be human-friendly or aggressively predatory towards our civilisation.

The general consensus is that the latter is more likely.

This attitude is particularly relevant to the future planning of the SETI project, recently canvassed in the January 23rd issue of New Scientist. The discussion centred on whether it would be advisable to signal our presence on planet Earth by actively broadcasting a message to our intergalactic neighbours or to just continue passively scanning for their messages.

This debate is now beginning to have practical consequences for SETI and therefore deserves a closer and more sophisticated analysis. The pro-active alternative involves significantly greater investment and broader cooperation with both the scientific community and public in general.

Supporters of the negative side of the argument base their analysis primarily on our own past behavioural patterns. Humans have aggressively waged war throughout our evolutionary history. The inference therefore is that other intelligent species would do the same, reflecting this same aggressive archetype, which has been portrayed in numerous sci-fi scenarios.

However there are two fundamental oversimplifications, if not blatant non-sequiturs, supporting this argument.

Firstly, members of an animal genus may include both types of behaviour- in this case predatory and benign. Examples include meat and plant eating dinosaurs and more recently sharks such as the predatory Great White and the mild bottom-feeders such as the Wobbegong.

But the second flaw is more pertinent. Behaviour in a species is not a static property- it can be modified over time. Our civilisation is moving towards a phase change in its social awareness, following 10,000 years of evolution, since the end of the last ice age. Although humans have waged war continuously over this period, with greater knowledge and hindsight we are beginning to comprehend more clearly its appalling consequences for future as well as current generations and the urgent need to avoid or mitigate its debilitating outcomes at all costs.

In the 20th century when the ferocity of conflict began to spiral out of control, threatening the very existence of our species, we began to construct an institutional and legal architecture to better reflect this awareness and safeguard our survival.

Evidence of this accelerating trend includes- the creation of global institutions such as the UN including the World Health Organisation and UNESCO, major advances in democracy, human rights and social justice, the creation of global Peace-keeping forces, implementation of critical treaties and protocols covering nuclear disarmament, war crime resolution, conflict mediation and outlawing the use of chemical weapons and land mines.

This new ethical framework will provide the basis for managing our civilisation in the future and provide the glue to hold it together in times of extreme stress such as during global warming.

Democracy with all its shortcomings has spread from 20 countries a hundred yeas ago to more than 130 nations today. In addition, the 27 countries in the European Union, which in the past waged relentless war on each other over hundreds of years, now live peacefully and productively in harmony.

In other words, as a civilisation becomes more knowledgeable and cogniscent of its history, a higher level of ethics and wisdom emerges. Once past a threshold of societal awareness, it is capable of transforming itself from an aggressive into a more peaceful entity. Our civilisation is now on the cusp of such a threshold.

The rate of acquisition of knowledge by groups is largely independent of local social turmoil such as wars and internal conflict. It is instead dependent on the rate of exchange of information between a system- in this case human society and its broader cultural and economic environment. It is also dependent on the capacity of the system to process that information and generate an appropriate response.

History is replete with instances of 'barbaric hordes' overrunning more socially 'advanced' states, or of 'civilised' nations dominating more 'primitive' peoples. In both cases, the result is a transfer of information through the merging and adaptation of cultures, technologies and social structures. In many cases, the adjustment is unequal and painful, particularly for indigenous cultures, with valuable knowledge destroyed or suppressed in the process.

However the morality of the evolutionary process itself is neutral. Information and knowledge continues to be accumulated at faster and faster rates regardless of temporary blocks and losses; dependent only on the unstoppable need of society to expand its well-being and potential.

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Over the past century, advances in computing and communications such as radio, television and now the Web have facilitated this generation and transfer of knowledge at a breathtaking rate; resulting in the phenomenon of global knowledge convergence. This occurs when most nations are able to access, share and make decisions based the same core knowledge base.

And while information is being propagated at a massive rate, another meta-process is at work; sifting and winnowing out the useful outcomes required to ensure the most beneficial directions for life. This meta-knowledge comprises the essence of today’s ethics, morality and wisdom.

This is a constraining influence, ensuring the survival of life in the face of potentially extraneous, misleading or lethal data. The implications for society of this evolutionary juggernaut are enormous, as we enter this next and most significant phase towards a more peaceful civilisation.

This evolutionary process operates at a fundamental level. All forms of life categorise events and relationships broadly as either useful- capable of adding to the quality of life or irrelevant or wasteful- potentially reducing its value. Relationships and knowledge are represented by a web of associative neural connections or patterns, which become firmly embedded not only in the individual’s memory, but in the group’s social consciousness. Such knowledge categories also require continuous feedback and adaptation to remain relevant to the process of winnowing value.

A framework of democratic and human rights provides the basis for good patterns in a society, in which all individuals have an equal opportunity to decide the type of government and society they need; in other words, the social, legal and economic framework for a civil society. In times of war and during periods of economic hardship, there is a major potential for a reduction in social value and pressure for disintegration of a civil society framework.

Transactions between individuals and sub-groups, related to work, health care or food distribution, all need to be mediated by ethical protocols and meta-rules such as ‘do unto others as you would have them do unto you’. These are closely linked to the core protocols of human rights and are based on the benefits of reciprocity and cooperation. In all instances the aim of such overriding rules is to ensure that life's potential is provided with the maximum opportunity to develop and avoid social implosion. This is the essence of the 'good' pattern. It allows life, human or otherwise, the opportunity to ratchet forward on its evolutionary path.

Wisdom is therefore a distillation or form of meta-knowledge essential to survival; feedback derived from outcomes of evolution. Ethics and morals are codified wisdom critical to life’s survival. It provides constraints on the destructive impacts of knowledge and extends beyond the taboos and moral codes enshrined in religious models. Ancient tribal wisdom evolved over tens of thousands of years, using the natural evolutionary process of trial and error; learning from those processes that enhance the potential of life and discarding those that don’t. Current wisdom derives from the same process but in a globally advanced age has the potential to be vastly accelerated.

In war, killing is still accepted by both aggressors and defenders as necessary. Overall however, killing is extremely negative, resulting in great loss of human potential not only for a society, but for the world as a whole. In the future, preventative action will be taken to ensure conflict resolution by the world community, before it escalates out of control, resulting in overall convergence to the elimination of wars.

As evolution is a generic process, driving life in whatever form across the universe, it is reasonable to infer that a similar evolutionary process selecting for peace as outlined above, will also be the norm in other worlds.

Any civilisation that responds to our greeting and has the capacity to visit us in the near future would be infinitely further down the evolutionary knowledge path than us and have advanced through this wisdom threshold long ago. Therefore despite all the Star Wars and intergalactic alien warfare mythologies, there is a very high probability that such a society would function at an advanced level of ethics and morality.

It is therefore time to put aside the same inherent biases that we have applied to other races on this planet in the past and peacefully welcome our intergalactic neighbours in the future.

AT: Hawking – Contact is Safe

Hawking is wrong-friendly contact with aliens is possible

Shermer, columnist for the Scientific American, 11

(Michael, The Scientific American, 5/19/11 http://www.scientificamerican.com/article.cfm?id=the-myth-of-evil-aliens, accessed 6/21/11, HK)

With the Allen Telescope Array run by the SETI Institute in northern California, the time is coming when we will encounter an extraterrestrial intelligence (ETI). Contact will probably come sooner rather than later because of Moore’s Law (proposed by Intel’s co-founder Gordon E. Moore), which posits a doubling of computing power every one to two years. It turns out that this exponential growth curve applies to most technologies, including the search for ETI (SETI): according to astronomer and SETI founder Frank Drake, our searches today are 100 trillion times more powerful than 50 years ago, with no end to the improvements in sight. If E.T. is out there, we will make contact. What will happen when we do, and how should we respond? Such questions, once the province of science fiction, are now being seriously considered in the oldest and one of the most prestigious scientific journals in the world—Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society A—which devoted 17 scholarly articles to “The Detection of Extra-Terrestrial Life and the Consequences for Science and Society” in its February issue. The myth, for example, that society will collapse into fear or break out in pandemonium—or that scientists and politicians will engage in a conspiratorial cover-up—is belied by numerous responses. Two such examples were witnessed in December 2010, when NASA held a very public press conference to announce a possible new life-form based on arsenic, and in 1996, when scientists proclaimed that a Martian rock contained fossil evidence of ancient life on the Red Planet and President Bill Clinton made a statement on the topic. Budget-hungry space agencies such as NASA and private fund-raising organizations such as the SETI Institute will shout to the high heavens about anything extraterrestrial they find, from microbes to Martians. But should we shout back to the aliens? I am skeptical. Although we can only represent the subject of an N of 1 trial, and our species does have an unenviable track rec­ord of first contact between civilizations, the data trends for the past half millennium are encouraging: colonialism is dead, slavery is dying, the percentage of populations that perish in wars has decreased, crime and violence are down, civil liberties are up, and, as we are witnessing in Egypt and other Arab countries, the desire for representative democracies is spreading, along with education, science and technology. These trends have made our civilization more inclusive and less exploitative. If we extrapolate that 500-year trend out for 5,000 or 500,000 years, we get a sense of what an ETI might be like. In fact, any civilization capable of extensive space travel will have moved far beyond exploitative colonialism and unsustainable energy sources. Enslaving the natives and harvesting their resources may be profitable in the short term for terrestrial civilizations, but such a strategy would be unsustainable for the tens of thousands of years needed for interstellar space travel. In this sense, thinking about extraterrestrial civilizations forces us to consider the nature and progress of our terrestrial civilization and offers hope that, when we do make contact, it will mean that at least one other intelligence managed to reach the level where harnessing new technologies displaces controlling fellow beings and where exploring space trumps conquering land. Ad astra!

No Impact – AT: Disease

Disease impacts are naturally self limiting – no extinction

The Independent 03 “Future Tense: Is Mankind Doomed?” http://www.commondreams.org/headlines03/0725-04.htm

Maybe - though plenty of experienced graduate students could already have a stab. But nature knows that infectious diseases are very hard to get right. Only HIV/Aids has 100 per cent mortality, and takes a long time to achieve it. By definition, lethal diseases kill their host. If they kill too quickly, they aren't passed on; if too slowly, we can detect them and isolate the infected. Any mutant smallpox or other handmade germ would certainly be too deadly or too mild. And even SARS killed fewer people worldwide than die on Britain's roads in a week. As scares go, this one is ideal - overblown and unrealistic.

Empirically, virus has ever caused a species extinction

New York Times 97

May 18, “Pathogens of Glory” http://query.nytimes.com/gst/fullpage.html?res=9C00E6DA1639F93BA25756C0A961958260&sec=&spon=&pagewanted=2

Despite such horrific effects, Dr. Peters is fairly anti-apocalyptic when it comes to the ultimate import of viruses. Challenging the widespread perception that exotic viruses are doomsday agents bent on wiping out the human species, he notes that ''we have not documented that viruses have wiped out any species.'' As for the notion that we're surrounded by ''new'' diseases that never before existed, he claims that ''most new diseases turn out to be old diseases''; one type of hantavirus infection, he suggests, goes back to A.D. 960. And in contrast to the popular belief that viral epidemics result from mankind's destruction of the environment, Dr. Peters shows how the elimination of a viral host's habitat can eradicate a killer virus and prevent future epidemics. This is what happened when the Aswan Dam, completed in 1971, destroyed the floodwater habitat of the Aedes aegypti mosquitoes, carriers of Rift Valley fever virus: ''After the Aswan Dam was constructed, there was no more alluvial flooding. . . . Without a floodwater mosquito, the virus can't maintain itself over the long haul. . . . By 1980, Rift Valley fever had essentially disappeared in Egypt.'' Still, Dr. Peters isn't totally averse to doomsday thinking, and in his final chapter he lays out his own fictional disease scenario, in which a mystery virus from Australia suddenly breaks out in a Bangkok slum. Throw in Malthus, chaos theory and the high mutation rates of RNA viruses, and soon he's got the world teetering on the brink of viral holocaust in the finest Hollywood tradition. But he doesn't know quite what to make of his own scenario. He offers ''one valid, simplified equation to describe what we can expect from viruses in the future'': mutating viruses plus a changing ecology plus increasing human mobility add up to more and worse infectious diseases. Two pages later, though, he says that ''it is impossible to gauge how the actions of man will impact on emerging infectious diseases.'' If that is true, it discredits the very equation he's given us. In the end, he presents no clear or consistent picture of the overall threat posed by the viruses he discusses. The empirical fact of the matter is that today's most glamorous viruses -- Marburg and Ebola -- have killed minuscule numbers of people compared with the staggering death rates of pathogens that go back to disease antiquity. Marburg virus, discovered in 1967, has been known to kill just 10 people in its 30-year history; Ebola has killed approximately 800 in the 20 years since it appeared in 1976. By contrast, malaria, an ancient illness, still kills a worldwide average of one million people annually -- more than 2,700 per day. More than three times as many people die of malaria every day than have been killed by Ebola virus in all of history. Yet it's Ebola that people find ''scary''!

Turn - Contact Good – Solves Laundry List

Contact solves a laundry list of impacts

Tough, Professor Emeritus at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto, 91

(Allen, Prof. OISE, founded Invit. to ETI, Journal of British Interplanetary Society, Vol. 39, pp 492, “What Role will extraterrestrials play in humanity’s future?”) PG

**Probable capacities in one civilisation or another include the following: • virtually unlimited energy (solar, nuclear, etc.) • technology and know- how that are so advanced that they would appear to us as miraculous • enormously evolved individual brainpower linked with an implanted twentieth-generation computer • the capacity to live and travel anywhere in space, probably approaching and perhaps surpassing the speed of light • elimination of individual and collective behaviour thai is violent, destructive, or harmful • loving cooperation, altruism, and compassion com­bined with sensible public decision-making • individual self-understanding, self-acceptance, and mental health that are very high, along with the skill of relating effectively and harmoniously with members of one's own species excellent skill (at least among the members of specially trained intcrcultural teams) at interacting with vastly different species and cultures • knowledge and wisdom unimaginable to us • excellent control over biological reproduction and evolution, including very healthy long-lived bodies and super-capacity brains • the technological and/or psychic ability to send information, receive information, detect, and observe across vast distances at the speed of light or even faster • the technological/psychic ability to covertly influ­ence an individual's thoughts, images, motives, and experiences • the technological/psychic ability to influence virtu­ally any object, and to transfer one's body or con­sciousness instantly from one place to another " organic or psychic connections to other members of the species, or to a central organism or brain • extremely rapid, accurate, versatile, and powerful weapons.**

**Such a list may strike us as unbelievable when we first read it. Would a human being 10.000 years ago. though, have reacted any differently to a list of our present capacities?** Airplanes, astronauts, Moon-walks, telescopes, selective breeding, television, electricity, microbes, hospitals, DN A. com­puters, universities, skyscrapers, cordless telephones, nuclear weapons, the United Nations, taxes, and many other aspects of today's world would have been dismissed 10,000 yean ago as ridiculous or impossible. That was the time when the Ice Age ended, humanity's main crops became domesticated, and the world's first town arose. Pigs, cattle, and horses had not yet been tamed 10,000 yean ago. Weaving, wagon wheels, and writing had not yet been invented. The Bronze Age and Iron Age had not yet begun. Stone buildings, philosophy, and science still lay in the future (l**). No wonder the people of 10,000 years ago could not have anticipated today's capacities. For us, in turn, the actual capacities of a civilisation 10,000 or a million years beyond us will probably make my list seem unimaginative.** Will surveillance, communication, or travel ever be faster than the speed of light? As our understanding of the laws of physics is expanded, we may discover physical principles far beyond what we now imagine. James Trctil has declared. "It is presumptuous of us to suppose, on the basis of three hundred yean of experience with science, that barriers that appear insurmountable to us will remain insurmountable 30 million yean from now" (2). Peter Sturrock, too, has said. '"The laws of gravitation and motion have been known for only about 300 years, electromagnet ism for about 100 years, arid quantum theory and relativity for only about 50 yean. **Why should we believe that, if scientists were to continue working for another million years, there would not be comparable revolutions or revelations?"** (3).

Impact Calculus – Contact Good Outweighs

Contact outweighs everything

Tough, Professor Emeritus at the University of Toronto, ’00

(Allen, *Foundation for the Future*, 2000, “When SETI Succeeds: The Impact of High-Information Contact”, www.futurefoundation.org/documents/hum\_pro\_wrk1.pdf , p. 7, 21 July 2011) SW

In recent years, scientists and the general public have realized that intelligent life may well be found throughout the universe. It is extremely unlikely that we are the only civilization in our galaxy. It may even contain dozens or hundreds of civilizations scattered among its 400,000,000,000 stars. If we receive a richly detailed message from one of these civilizations or engage in a lively dialogue, the effects on our civilization could be pervasive and profound. Contact with intelligent life from somewhere else in our galaxy will probably occur sometime in humanity’s future. It might take the form of a richly detailed radio or laser message from the distant civilization, for instance, or a super-intelligent probe that reaches our planet. Such contact might occur next year, or 20 or 30 years from now, or not for 100 years, or even longer. Few events in the entire sweep of human history would be as significant and far-reaching, affecting our deepest beliefs about the nature of the universe, our place in it, and what lies ahead for human civilization. Seeking contact and preparing for successful interaction should be two of the top priorities on our civilization’s current agenda. Such contact will surely be an extraordinary event in all of human history. Over the next thousand years, several significant events will, no doubt, have a powerful, positive impact on human society. But making contact with another civilization will likely be the event with the highest positive impact of all. A few hundred scientists, social scientists, artists, engineers, and technicians around the world are currently involved in the search for such contact—the search for extraterrestrial intelligence (SETI). This volume, When SETI Succeeds , examines the potential impact on human culture, science, philosophy, and society. Any other civilizations in our galaxy are probably much older than human civilization. Two factors support this assumption. First, the vast majority of stars in our galaxy are much older than our Sun, many of them millions of years older. It follows, then, that any civilizations on planets revolving around those stars likely arose much earlier than our own civilization did. Second, it seems quite possible that some civilizations survive for a million years or even longer. If the civilizations in our galaxy range in age from a few thousand years up to a million years, then we are one of the youngest: by most definitions, human civilization is not much more than 10,000 years old.

Alien Threat Construction

This DA is just a projection of fear of Otherness onto the figure of the alien

Lombardo, retired Faculty Chair of Psychology, Philosophy, and the Future at Rio Salado College, 2000

(Tom, “Space Exploration and Cosmic Evolution”,

http://www.centerforfutureconsciousness.com/pdf\_files/Readings/ReadingSpaceExploration.pdf

Since outer space is like a blank screen on which we can project our deepest thoughts and feelings about ourselves, our different images of aliens could also reflect different aspects of how we see our own psyche and character. Why is it that aliens are so frequently warlike? Why are they often so much like the monsters of the id? Frequently they represent the worst in us. They are the devils of the modern soul.

Equally, our images of aliens could reflect our underlying vision of the cosmos. Do we believe that we live in a nasty brutish universe populated by demons, akin to depictions of the seas in 16th Century maps, or do we believe we live in a universe filled with love, benevolence, wonder, and angels? Do we see the universe as a cold and impersonal reality or do we see it as magical and beautiful? Into the darkness we project our hopes and fears and structure its content in terms of our philosophical, psychological, and spiritual beliefs.

The fear we have of aliens conquering and destroying us perhaps simply reflects a deep apprehension over the possibility of meeting creatures from a different world. The word for this fear is “xenophobia”. Nothing would seem so strange and unnerving as to come face to face with an intelligent mind from another planet or star system. The psychological and cultural shock of an alien encounter is what I think we fear most of all, rather than whether they will destroy us with laser guns or monstrous poisonous fangs. It is the possibility or probability of extreme difference that frightens us. The alien is the ultimate “otherness”.

This logic of the scapegoating of the evil alien Other risks human extinction

Zimmerman, University of Colorado – Professor of Philosophy, 2

(Michael E. “Encountering Alien Otherness”, The Concept of the Foreign, ed. Rebecca Saunders

http://www.colorado.edu/philosophy/paper\_zimmerman\_Alien\_Otherness.pdf)

Obviously, alien abduction is usually not taken seriously in "better" academic neighborhoods. This is so partly because researchers fear being ridiculed for openly investigating the seemingly preposterous allegations that people are being abducted by nonhuman aliens, and partly because verifiable discovery of highly intelligent non-human beings—whether flesh-and-blood E.T.s or beings from other dimensions--could have a devastating effect on many people, perhaps especially on academics adhering to the view that humankind alone is the source of all meaning, purpose, and value. Academics concerned with the plight of immigrants and the consequences of colonialism, however, have something to learn from examining the psychological consequences that occur when people experience abduction by apparently non-human others, whatever may be the nature or origin of such perceived others. In addition to helping to alleviate the suffering and isolation experienced by so many abductees, academic study of the abduction phenomenon would help to shed light on the universal human fear of and attraction to otherness. Finally, research needs to be done on the social, cultural, and political consequences of widespread public belief that the government knows far more about UFOs, E.T.s, and alien abduction than it is willing to admit. To what extent does official ignorance about the abduction phenomenon fuel the fires of right-wing paranoia about government support of and intrigue with "aliens" of all kinds?9

Recently, concern about foreign immigrants has grown in Western countries to which people from poorer countries (including former colonies) are flocking to escape political oppression and to find work. For many tourists, encountering otherness-- distinctive clothing, different skin color, odd cultural practices, unusual cuisines--is the whole point of traveling. Having those exotic others immigrating to one's own country is another matter altogether, however. Politicians frequently try to gain political power by turning foreigners--and even citizens who can be portrayed as sufficiently other--into scapegoats for the country's woes. In the U.S., for example, immigrant-bashers play on the fears that some people have about losing their jobs to immigrants, even though job loss is more often due to decisions taken by powerful transnational economic interests. Even people not immediately threatened by outsiders will often join in disparaging or expelling them. People tend to project mortality and evil onto outsiders, aliens, others. By dominating or even destroying the death- and evil-bearing other, the dominant group feels as if it has conquered death and evil.10 Due to surging human populations, rapid shifts in capital investment and economic structures, environmental degradation, and greater ease of travel, mass migrations will only increase. Given the destructive capacity of current weapons, humanity may either have come to terms with otherness, or else risk destroying itself.

Alien Threat Con – Link Ext.

Construction of the alien threat is an manifestation of paranoid us/them dichotomy

Burns, Professor at College of William and Mary ‘08

(Christy L, Camera Obscura “Erasure: Alientation, Paranoia, and the Loss of Memory in the X-Files” p.200, Project MUSE, June 21, 2011, BLG)

America has always been a land of uncertain boundaries. Even with two oceans abutting either coast, its initial status as a colony—and later internal colonizer of Native Americans, African slaves, Chinese and Mexican slave labor—has marked it as a nation of perforated borders and mixed ethnic identities. How lit- tle surprising then that its paranoid tendencies should oscillate between distrust of centralized government power and fear of an “alien” breach of national security.1 US cultural constructs of the alien repeatedly link illegal or unassimilated aliens and their mythological counterparts—aliens who descend from outer space, with, to use Orson Welles’s fictional account, gray snaking bodies and faces so unfamiliar that they inspire sheer horror. I am suggesting here that American anxiety about aliens follows a para- noid structure, manifest in radical reifications of identity that purify the paranoid subject as “good” and externalize all internal instabilities (failures, “evil” and maladaptive intent) onto some other. This paranoid scenario involves repeated dissolution of boundaries and disruption of identity consolidation, so that attempts to differentiate self from other are launched with increasing agitation. In the 1990s in the US, gestures of aggres- sion against historically marginalized racial and ethnic groups accelerated. Jasper, Texas, became the media’s exemplar of racial hatred in June 1998, with the murder and mutilation of an African American man receiving national scrutiny amid a culmi- nating rise of white supremacist actions, through which the multi- culturation of American society was being stringently resisted.

The figure of the alien disrupts the possible of certainty and security

Dean, Professor of Political History, 97

(Jodi, Professor of Political History, “The Familiarity of Strangeness: Aliens, Citizens, and Abduction,” 1997, Project Muse, <https://muse.jhu.edu/journals/theory_and_event/v001/1.2dean.html>, JSkoog)

The aliens steal our security, our ability to tell friend from enemy. They take away our capacity to establish borders, boundaries. Of course, deep down these borders have been illusions. Some things never really fit. So, while it is often thought that the alien is that which is completely other, the abduction discourse exposes the alien as that which reminds us that nothing is completely other (and everything is somewhat other), that the very border between like and unlike is illusory. Why is this a statement about global citizenship? Throughout most of this essay, I've focused on problems with imagining the global. If the alien steals our agency, security, and certainty, it steals the conditions, the fictions necessary, for imagining citizenship. Even the most minimal sense of citizen implies a notion of meaningful action, of choices that matter, of a capacity to influence outcomes. Citizenship suggests a relationship with governing institutions upon which citizens can rely, a relationship that they can trust. To be a citizen is to be able to expect a certain degree of protection. We--and here I mean any we that is or has been used to refer to citizens as a collective--have never had the agency, security, and certainty that any alien who violates our borders is thought to steal.

Alien Threat Con – AT: Otherization Inevitable

Violence & Otherization not inevitable

Fraser, Fellow of Churchill College, Cambridge, et al 1

(Colin, Brendan Burchell, Dale Hay, Gerard Duveen, Introducing social psychology, pg 178)

Aggression has always been a topic of special interest to social psychologists and we now know a great deal about the answers to the question: ‘Why and when are people aggressive?’ Certainly, popular beliefs in Western societies that humans inevitably behave violently are too pessimistic. Most psychologists and contemporary biologists (Bateson and Martin 1999) agree that human violence is no inevitable. Fears of war and violent crime undermine our sense of security, but victimization surveys show that many public fears of violence are disproportionate to the actual risks. For example, Dowds (1994) showed that fears of street violence markedly exceeded the actual risks, and B. Jones and colleagues (1994) described a survey of 10,000 women in the UK which had found that 20 per cent felt ‘very unsafe’ when walking out at night, even though less than 1 per cent had in fact been attacked in the last year. To the extent that our actions are based on erroneous beliefs, we are likely to be ineffective in reducing aggression. As you will see, psychological research can offer new insights into the nature of aggression and suggest a more adequate basis for eradicating conditions conducive to both individual and collective violence