BIOCOSMOS

Ecosystems, Aliens and our Place in the Universe

*Biosphere 2 Event Open to the Public!*

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Photo Credit: Dr. Alan Strauss, Director of the UA Mount Lemmon SkyCenter captured the 1 second transit of the International Space Station in front of the sun. Photo taken from Himmel Park in Tucson, Arizona on New Year’s Day 2018.

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**Friday, February 2 (Biosphere 2 Lower Habitat – 9:45am-4:00pm)**

**BIOCOSMOS: Our Sense of Place, Our Sense of Life in the Universe**

Biosphere 2 would like to announce the upcoming special event 'BIOCOSMOS: Our Sense of Place, Our Sense of Life in the Universe', that will take place at UA Biosphere 2 near Tucson, Arizona on Friday, February 2, 2018.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC (AS COMPLIMENTARY ADDITIONAL VALUE FOR GENERAL ADMISSION VISITORS). MEMBERS FREE. CAPACITY IS LIMITED.
As part of a workshop with UA and visiting scholars from around the world, presentations and discussions are open to the public and will focus on how breakthroughs in space science and exploration affect our understanding of life and nature as an integrated system. Invited keynote lectures - including top astronomers from the UA: Dante Lauretta, Marcia Rieke, Chris Impey - will be followed by interactive discussions.

**Speaker Lineup for February 2, 2018:**

10:00-10:10AM  **Opening remarks by Dean Joaquin Ruiz** (UA Biosphere 2)

10:10-10:50AM  **Valerie Olson** (UC Irvine, Anthropology)
*Ecosystems as Objects of Study and Collaboration: Lessons from the Ethnographic Field*

10:50-11:30AM  **Dante Lauretta** (UA, Lunar and Planetary Laboratory)
*Planetary Exploration and Our Understanding of Life*

11:30-11:50AM  Discussion

11:50-12:30PM  Lunch break (Food can be purchased at the Biosphere 2 Café)

12:30-1:10PM  **Marcia Rieke** (UA, Astronomy)
*Characterizing Exoplanets: What Do We Know?*

1:10-1:50PM  **Istvan Praet** (University of London at Roehampton, Anthropology)
*Petri dishes, Islands and Planets. Astrobiology and the Modelling of Biospheres*

1:50-2:10PM  Discussion

2:10-2:50PM  **Lisa Messeri** (Yale University, Anthropology)
*Being Elsewhere: Analog Fieldwork and the Planetary Imagination*

2:50-3:30PM  **Chris Impey** (UA, Astronomy)
*Our Future in Space*

3:30-4:00PM  Discussion and closing

*After workshop ends, participants may consider visiting the Kuiper LPL Art of Planetary Science on UA main campus, 5:00-9:00PM. The exhibit continues on February 3 and 4, 1-5PM. More information at [https://www.sites.google.com/site/lpltaps/](https://www.sites.google.com/site/lpltaps/).*
UA astronomy experts from the **UA Sky Center** and the **UA Lunar and Planetary Laboratory** will be present 11AM-2PM with solar telescopes for real-time viewing, exoplanet activities, and other hands-on opportunities.

In collaboration with UA Biosphere 2, this event is organized by the OCAV (Origin and Conditions of Appearance of Life) program at Paris Sciences-Lettres Research University and the CNRS-ENS-Arizona International Center for Interdisciplinary and Global Environmental Studies (iGLOBES).

The workshop aims at breaking through disciplinary boundaries by bringing together a mix of astronomers, Earth scientists, ecologists, and anthropologists to address a variety of complex questions...

*How has our understanding of life and nature as integrated systems advanced and evolved as we become able to assemble and control complex artificial ecosystems?*

*What are the implications on Earth - and for new exploration and habitation on the Moon, Mars, or other parts of the Solar System?*

*Is our search for alien life and ecosystems on other planets and planetary bodies aided by recent discovery and innovation?*

*How can we continue to push the boundaries of our exploration of the distant universe, and of what it means to be human?*

**WHO:**
Visitors to Biosphere 2 with paid general admission. Members free.

**WHEN:**
Friday, February 2, 2018
9:45AM – 4:00PM

**WHERE:**
UA Biosphere 2
32540 S. Biosphere Road
Oracle, Arizona 85623

**SPONSORS**
Thank you to the BIOCOSMOS sponsors who helped make this event possible.