

Jason Wright – Colloquium seminar – April 21, 2022

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Title:

The Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence in the 2020's

Abstract:

Searches for signs of alien life via its technology ("technosignatures") go back to the pioneering efforts of Frank Drake in 1960, who searched for narrowband radio beacons, and the search for extraterrestrial intelligence (SETI) via radio signals has remained the most visible and well funded aspect of the field since then. I will briefly discuss the history of the field through the heyday of the 1980's at NASA, the government funding drought of the 1990's, and the resurgence more recently via philanthropic funds. In particular, I'll discuss how other technosignatures have remained a viable, if often overlooked, path for the discovery of life, relying on different assumptions about the nature of alien life and technology. I'll discuss some of my own work, including the  $\hat{G}$  survey, the development of a SETI curriculum, and the recently founded Penn State Extraterrestrial Intelligence Center.