

50th IAA SYMPOSIUM ON THE SEARCH FOR EXTRATERRESTRIAL INTELLIGENCE (SETI) –
The Next Steps (A4)
SETI 2: SETI and Society (2)

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HOW LAW AND ETHICS WOULD NEED TO ADAPT TO THE DISCOVERY OF LIFE

Abstract

The present paper would like to address the main ideas around the ethical and legal effects of the discovery of life in the universe. Life manages to exist in the most extreme environments. This is why extremophiles can prevail at very high and very low temperatures and also different type of environment with almost little levels of oxygen, Humanity has drafted laws, designed ethics, and rules around a certain type of anthropocentric perspective. How would environmental law react to the discovery of life? and Animal Law? Could we patent the discovery on Mars of alien microbes? Answers to these questions and many more will be given from a theoretical perspective. Only time will tell us how our society will adapt to the new challenges that the Outer Space will bring us.