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Are We Alone in the Universe?

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For 56 years astronomers have been sweeping the skies with radio telescopes in the hope of stumbling across a message from an extraterrestrial civilization. So far, nothing. Now the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence (SETI) has received a huge fillip with a \$100 million donation by the philanthropist Yuri Milner. However, is the current search strategy misconceived? Should we abandon detecting messages in favour of a search for more diverse signatures of non-human technology? In this talk, which is based on my book *The Eerie Silence*, I shall outline the opportunities and challenges facing the new era of SETI.

Summary

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Session Classification: Public lecture