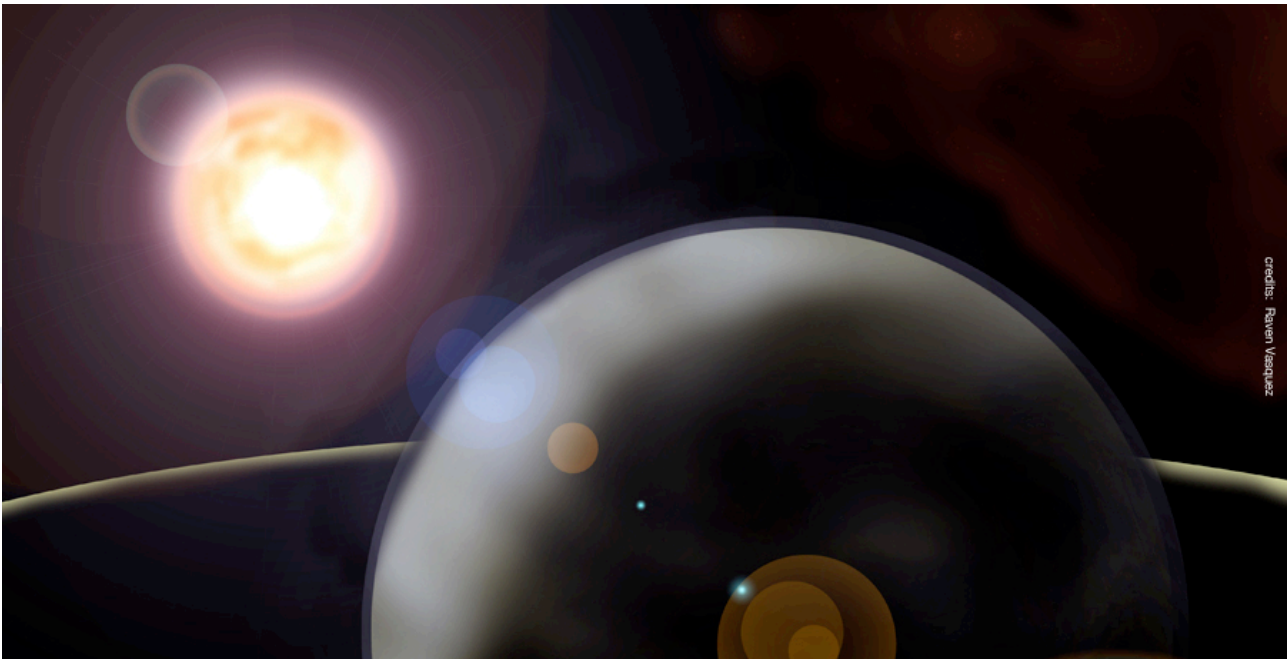




How many “lives” on other planets?



A conference on extraterrestrial life at the Miela Theatre

5 November, 6.30 pm

Miela Theatre

Piazza Duca degli Abruzzi, 3, Trieste

The meeting “How many ‘lives’ on other planets? One, none or a hundred thousand”, a public event within the “EU-Russia Year of Science” conference, will explore what we know about the possibility of life in the Universe beyond our planet with the help of scientists. The round table will be followed, at 8.30 pm, by a screening of “District 9”, a visionary film set in a dystopian future where humans and aliens live together.

“If we haven’t seen them yet, it means they don’t exist. That was Enrico Fermi’s view on the existence of aliens”, jokes Fabio Pagan, a science journalist, cinema lover and avid devourer of science fiction. “But I’m not so sure, and the conference will provide an opportunity to discuss the matter with scientists”. Pagan will in fact be moderating the conference on the search for extraterrestrial life, to be held at the Miela Theatre on Wednesday November 5 at 6.30 pm.

The conference will open with a talk by **Massimo Capaccioli**, astronomer and astrophysicist from the University of Naples Federico II. Capaccioli will examine the statistical aspects of the



likelihood of life in the Universe, starting from Drake's equation, the mathematical formula used to estimate the number of communicative extraterrestrial civilizations existing in our galaxy.

Giovanni Vladilo, astronomer at INAF Astronomical Observatory of Trieste and the University of Trieste, will then discuss "zones of planetary habitability": how can we tell whether a planet could in principle harbour life as we know it? Finally, **Ernesto di Mauro**, molecular biologist of the "Charles Darwin" Department of Biology and Biotechnology of La Sapienza University in Rome will talk about the first building blocks of life: how did the macromolecules necessary for life develop (aminoacids, nucleotides, DNA...)?

To close the evening, at 8.30 pm there will be a screening of "**District 9**", a film by Neill Blomkamp. The film tells about a Johannesburg where aliens live segregated in a refugee camp, and talks about segregation, prejudice, and racism. In 2009 the film was a cinematic sensation: shot on a limited budget it attracted the general public's attention for its crude style and shocking story. The film will be shown in the original version with Italian subtitles, and admission is free and open to all.

The evening is organized by SISSA of Trieste, the International Centre for Theoretical Physics "Abdus Salam" ICTP of Trieste and the Italian Embassy in Moscow, in collaboration with the Municipality of Trieste, Bonawentura, La Cappella Underground and Trieste Science+Fiction.

More in detail...

The meeting and film screening are the public event planned within the **EU-Russia Year of Science** conference that will be held at ICTP on November 4-6 with the participation of SISSA, ICTP, the Italian Embassy in Moscow, the INFN of Rome, and the Joint Institute of Nuclear Research of Dubna. The conference brings together physics, biology and technology and will benefit from the participation of scientists from all over the world.

IMAGES:

- Credits Raven Vasquez: <http://goo.gl/Czll5m>

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