



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI
DELL'INSUBRIA

DIPARTIMENTO DI SCIENZE
UMANE E DELL'INNOVAZIONE
PER IL TERRITORIO – DiSUIT



TOULOUSE REBOOT

1st International Workshop on Interstellar Message Construction

Organizer: InCosmiCon Research Center at the University of Insubria (Italy)

Venue: École Normale Supérieure, Paris, Rue d'Ulm 29 and 46

Dates: 18-19 December 2023

Participants:

Paolo Musso (ITA), Yvan Dutil (CAN), Daniela De Paulis (HOL), Teófilo Vargas (PER), Mariano Asla (ARG), Alberto Vianelli (ITA), Ignasi Ribas (SPA), Pere Renom (SPA), João Pedro Magalhães (ENG)

Rationale:

After having been for a long time a very important part of SETI, in the last years the study of interstellar communication has been progressively neglected and finally abandoned by the SETI community. We could (and maybe should) discuss why it happened, but, whatever our answer, it does not change the fact: while we are still searching for aliens, we are not yet searching for a way to communicate with them.

Many people think that we should worry about this only when SETI succeeds, but there are good reasons to consider this attitude unsatisfactory. First, without a common framework for IMC ready to be used, we risk being caught unprepared when the “first contact” should occur. Second, without IMC we have no more a common subject on which scientists and humanists can really work together, so that we risk losing SETI's historic interdisciplinary character.

The Workshop on IMC organized by the SETI Institute in 2001 during the Toulouse IAC was the best example I know of a really interdisciplinary work which produced some concrete advances and not only further inconclusive discussions. So, I think we should follow an analog method for this new series of Workshops on IMC.

However, this should not be simply a “sequel”, but rather a “reboot” of the first one, since, despite its fantastic conception, some errors occurred, which made it ultimately unsuccessful, and we should avoid them (I'll explain this crucial point in detail in Paris). And it is precisely to underline this “diversity in continuity” (and also not to give the impression of wanting to misappropriate the work previously done by Doug Vakoch and the SETI Institute) that I propose to call this new series “Workshops on Interstellar Message Construction” instead of “Composition”, which has still the same acronym, but it is slightly different.



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Chiaramente Insubria!

Piano 4°

Uff. 1



Objectives:

- 1) Putting together the people still interested in IMC.
- 2) Sharing our experiences, ideas, and advances (if any).
- 3) Creating a stable IMC team with periodic meetings (at least one per year).
- 4) Creating a basic online library on IMC and, more generally, on SETI & Society.
- 5) Identifying which principles for an effective IMC are already well-established.
- 6) Identifying what we should still do to create a general framework for IMC.
- 7) Creating a tentative Interstellar Message according to the above ideas.
- 8) Uploading the Message to the InCosmiCon website to share it with everybody.
- 9) Widening and improving the Message during the next Workshops on IMC.
- 10) Proposing again papers on IMC to the IAC SETI Symposium.

Schedule (tentative and flexible):

Sunday 17 evening (Ibis Paris Tour Eiffel Cambronne Hotel, Rue Cambronne 2)

h. 20: Welcome Dinner

Monday 18 morning (ENS, Rue d'Ulm 29)

h. 10,00-11,00: Paolo Musso, *The old and new Workshop series on IMC*

h. 11,00-11,30: Discussion

h. 11,30-12,30: Yvan Dutil, *The Cosmic Call message and its conception*

h. 12,30-13,00: Discussion

Monday 18 afternoon (ENS, Rue d'Ulm 29)

h. 14,30-15,00: Paolo Musso, *A basic library for SETI & Society*

h. 15,00-15,30: Discussion

h. 15,30-17,00: *Encoding physics: how to extend the Cosmic Call message* (brainstorming)

h. 17,00-18,00: Alberto Vianelli, *Encoding biology: some proposals*

h. 18,00-18,30: Discussion

Tuesday 19 morning (ENS, Rue d'Ulm 46)

h. 10,00-11,00: Remarks and suggestions about the first day (short talks)

h. 11,00-11,30: Discussion

h. 11,30-13,00: *Encoding biology in the Cosmic Call framework* (brainstorming)

Tuesday 19 afternoon (ENS, Rue d'Ulm 46)

h. 14,30-15,30: Daniela De Paulis, *Lessons to learn from the "A Sign in Space" project*

h. 15,30-16,30: Mariano Asla, *What is truly universal about human reason?*

h. 16,30-18,00: *From science to culture: what do we need?* (brainstorming)

h. 18,00-18,30: Final remarks and suggestions for the future