



Palatine Centre | Stockton Road | Durham | DH1 3LE

Professor Michael Bohlander
Dr Andreas Anton
Dr John Elliott

Michael Bohlander/Andreas Anton/John Elliott (eds.)

Human life after contact with extraterrestrial civilisations

CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO AN EDITED BOOK

(Under contract with Routledge Publishing)

How will humanity react to contact with an alien civilisation? How would different types of contact affect us? How would humans live with such a new reality? Contact, or even life with another intelligent species, would have ramifications into all areas of human life, such as, for example politics and governance, defence, law, religion, philosophy, sociology, psychology, communication and linguistics, arts and literature, and technology, to name but a few.

We invite contributions from an academic perspective, with a strong comparative and above all decolonising emphasis. Too many of the publications in the broader field of the search for extraterrestrial intelligence (SETI) come from a Eurocentric and generally Western background. Contributions from the global South and Asia are strongly encouraged.

This project is linked to a global online survey of members of the public conducted by the editors in 2024 with the title "Contact with Extraterrestrial Intelligence – A study of projected perceptions and reactions among the world's societies". Each of the selected contributors will be invited to answer the survey questions before addressing their actual contribution topic – taking the survey is, however, optional. The contributors will be given guidance on generic key issues which they should aim to address in their papers.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

All contributions will have to be original, proceed from the assumption that contact of one form or other has been made, and contemplate its future effects. Submissions about the mere search for ETI or critiquing the idea or possibility of contact as such are thus outside the scope of the project and will not be accepted.

While the topic includes UAP scenarios, it is not as such concerned with the current actual debate about individual whistleblowers etc. related to capture of alien craft/crew or reverse-engineering, for example, in the USA. Hence, the objective rigorous analysis of official UAP disclosure policy based on past and current events and its impact on a future life after contact would, for example, be a suitable topic – the discussion of the essence of individual UAP events in the past and of the veracity of related sighting reports, including any form of conspiracy theories, is not. This may occasionally be a fine line and the editors will decide on an ad-hoc basis whether submissions fall in the excluded categories or not. Prospective contributors may contact Professor Bohlander for a discussion of general suitability.

FORMAT

The guideline for the academic chapters is 5,000 words minimum and 6,000 words maximum, including footnotes. Guidance on style and formatting will be provided.

ABSTRACTS

The deadline for abstracts of no more than 200 words is 15 August 2024 (see below for the contact address). Longlisting of papers by the editors will take place on a rolling basis after announcement of the call, and decisions on selection will be made as soon as possible after the lapse of the deadline.

EDITORS

Professor Michael Bohlander holds the [Chair in Global Law and SETI Policy in Durham Law School \(UK\)](#).

Dr Andreas Anton is a research associate at the [Institute for Frontier Areas of Psychology and Mental Health \(IGPP\)](#) in Freiburg, Germany, and a Research Fellow at Durham Law School (UK).

Dr John Elliott is a member of the International Academy of Astronautics SETI Permanent Committee, Chair of the UK SETI Research Network, and founder of the [SETI Post Detection Hub at the University of St Andrews](#).

CONTACT

Abstracts and any questions about the call should be sent to Professor Bohlander at michael.bohlander@durham.ac.uk.