

New SETI: Broader Searches for Signatuires on Intelligence
P. C. W. Davies (paul.davies@asu.edu)

The search for narrow-band signals directed at Earth by an extraterrestrial civilization is probably futile, because the existence of a communicating civilization on Earth will not be known to any alien community beyond 100 light years. Instead, we should search for any indicators of extraterrestrial intelligence, using the full panoply of scientific instrumentation, including physical traces of very ancient extraterrestrial projects in or near the solar system. Radio SETI needs to be re-oriented to the search for non-directed beacons, by staring toward the galactic center continuously over months or even years, and seeking distinctive transient events ('pings'). This 'new SETI' should complement, not replace, traditional radio and optical SETI.