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ENG 1101

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November 13, 2021

What is the History of Extraterrestrial Alien Study?

Annotated Bibliography

Introduction:

The reason I am interested in the extraterrestrial alien study is that it is the unknown. It is this unknown that crosses a person's mind sometime in their life. I want to know how they look, how they live, or if they even exist. I am interested to find out whether there is a reason society has formed a specific look for the extraterrestrial alien. I have thought about this research question for a while. I always wondered how we did not make any contact with aliens yet. I feel the history of extraterrestrial alien study is incomplete.

What I expect to find in this research is clarity. I hope to find out whether extraterrestrial aliens exist or if it is all a myth. I hope to find out if we ever spotted a UFO or if that "news" was a fictional fantasy to entertain human society. I hope to find historical studies from the beginning, when the thought of extraterrestrial aliens first came, up to and including the present, a more modernized and advanced time.

If the information I find from the research is not what I expected, I will most likely not believe it or assume I did not do enough digging. I am almost sure there must be other life in the galaxy other than us humans. In my religion, Judaism, it is believed we are the only world that

inhabits life. I feel differently, and no matter what information I come across, I feel it would be hard for me to believe there are no extraterrestrial aliens. The aliens don't have to look like us, they even could be pebble-figured, but I have faith they exist, and I hope to find information supporting my beliefs. I will not discard the research I gather, even if it goes against what I expected to find. I will only assume either we have still not found the aliens or the higher class citizens in the world are hiding this information from us.

The genres I feel would be most useful are research reports, data reports, supported blog, and an editorial. Research and data reports will help me gather facts and break down those facts into more details to get an idea of what information I would like to focus on and add to my research. A supported blog will help provide trustworthy material. Editorials will help me visualize the events related to extraterrestrial aliens in the past. With all these genres, I should be able to find the research I need.

Source Entries:

Buchanan, Mark (June 10, 2021) "Contacting Aliens Could End All Life on Earth. Let's Stop Trying" *The Washington Post*. https://www.washingtonpost.com/outlook/ufo-report-aliens-seti/2021/06/09/1402f6a8-c899-11eb-81b1-34796c7393af_story.html

Physicist and science writer based in Europe, Mark Buchanan writes a newspaper editorial on videos, taken by the U.S. Navy aircraft, being released in April 2020 by the defense department containing sightings of "unidentified aerial phenomena" also known by society as a UFO (Unidentified Flying Object). Buchanan states, "Attempting to communicate with extraterrestrials, if they do exist, could be extremely dangerous for us. We need to figure out whether it's wise — or safe — and how to handle such attempts in

an organized manner.” In other words, attempting to contact alien life on other planets without centralized global oversight and a decision-making body could lead to a disaster. This quotation is an important source of why we should be cautious in reaching out to other life.

Daley, Jason (October 2, 2018) “In the Search of Aliens, We’ve Only Analyzed a Small Pool in the Cosmic Ocean” *Smithsonian Magazine*. <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/search-aliens-weve-only-examined-cosmic-hot-tub-180970447/>

On October 2, 2018, Jason Daley published his blog about Lisa Grossman’s report on *ScienceNews*, on how humans have too high expectations when looking for extraterrestrial life. “After analyzing the vast area that needed to be searched and the efforts made up to that point, she concluded that humanity’s search for signs of alien life was the equivalent of looking at a glass of water to determine if there were fish in the ocean.” I find this information very important for alien study, and we should work on modernizing our systems. Knowing someone who has done their research, and believes we have not even begun to reach the surface of meeting, extraterrestrial life, gives me faith one day, we will find the resources to find extraterrestrial life.

Kennedy, Courtney, and Lau Arnold (June 30, 2021) “Most Americans Believe in Intelligent Life Beyond Earth; Few See UFOs as a Major National Security Threat” Pew Research Center.

<https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2021/06/30/most-americans-believe-in-intelligent-life-beyond-earth-few-see-ufos-as-a-major-national-security-threat/>

In the research report, both authors Courtney Kennedy and Arnold Lau, start to write about a survey they took on 10,417 U.S. adults after sightings of UFOs have been

reported. The survey asked whether the adults believed life on other planets exists or not. Another question on the survey was if respondents felt UFOs were a national security threat. The results came back that the majority of the American adults believed there is life on other planets and the UFOs are not a threat. “Some segments of the public are more likely than others to believe that intelligent life exists on other planets. This view is especially pronounced among younger Americans. About three-quarters (76%) of adults under age 30 say intelligent life exists on other planets, versus 57% of those 50 and older.” This quote stands out because it makes me wonder. When I get older, will I stop believing that extraterrestrial life exist? It makes me question why after the age of 50, Americans lose hope in life on other planets. I feel this information is significant regarding research in extraterrestrial life because it is vital to include civilization in important matters like this that can affect the world. I also wonder if astronomers and space scientists would be more motivated if they were younger than 30.

Kolbert, Elizabeth (January 18, 2021) “Have We Already Been Visited by Aliens?” *The New Yorker*. <https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2021/01/25/have-we-already-been-visited-by-aliens>

Science writer, Elizabeth Kolbert, published an article on January 18, 2021, about a Canadian astronomer, Robert Weryk. Weryk caught sight of an unfamiliar light over the island of Maui through the telescope, Pan-STARRS1 on October 19, 2017. The telescope was designed to see “Near earth objects” such as asteroids. Robert Weryk noticed the light moving four times the speed of an asteroid. “The bright dot, astronomers concluded, was something never before seen. It was an “interstellar object”—a visitor from far beyond the solar system that was just passing through.” I find this quote

important because it shows astronomers themselves believe this weird light must be from some other planet. This gives me hope there is alien life out there in the galaxy.

Dave Farina (March 13, 2019) “Astrobiology: The Search for Extraterrestrial Life” *YouTube.com*
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cl_YuKk9mzg

Science educator, Dave Farina, talks about from the beginning when the world first noticed there are other planets and how our planet is one out of a billion worlds in the galaxy. He discusses the chances of one of the other worlds inhabiting life and how it is hard to imagine that we are the only ones in the universe. In the middle of the video, Professor Dave talks about an astronomer, Frank Drake, and his equation “The Drake Equation” (1961) on how to calculate N (The number of intelligent civilizations in the milky way that can communicate). The formula is $N = R^* \times fp \times ne \times fl \times fi \times fc \times L$. “What are the variables? First, we have the average rate of star formation. It’s difficult to conceive of life without a parent star, so that’s an important variable. Next is the fraction of stars that have planets. Then, of those stars with planets, the fraction of them that can potentially support life. Of those, the fraction that develop life. Of those, the fraction that develop intelligent life. Of those, the fraction that develop sophisticated technology with which to potentially communicate with us and are perhaps actively sending signals through the galaxy. And finally, the length of time that such civilizations send such signals, which can be interpreted as the lifetime of civilization.” The variables were difficult to calculate, and The Drake Equation was meant to provoke the talk of other life on planets. When plugging in the variables to the best ability, the results show it is unlikely we are the only life in the galaxy. I find this information very important in the history of extraterrestrial alien study. This formula created by Frank Drake shows more

that there is a probability there is another life out there in the galaxy. It makes me feel like we are so close to finding another life and need a little push in the right direction. It also makes me interested if we have tried recently to plug in the formula.

Conclusion:

The conclusion is the history of extraterrestrial alien study is incomplete. Before my research, I expected to have answers to whether extraterrestrial aliens are real or a myth. After my research, I've come to find out we have barely reached the surface of meeting extraterrestrial life. More research needs to be done on figuring out how to travel further into the galaxy. Also, how as a society we would react to meeting aliens. Would we freak out, or would we welcome the aliens and work together?