

Week 25, Wednesday, 2pm (Ingram Lecture Theatre)	Didier Queloz (Cambridge)	Exoplanets, on the hunt of Universal life
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The present exoplanets collection is not only made of gas giants like our own Jupiter, but also includes a steeply fraction of smaller planets some believed to be of similar composition than the Earth. For some of these exoplanets basic information on their atmospheric properties have even been retrieved. These early results are paving the way for future atmospheric studies of habitable terrestrial exoplanets with the hope to obtain a solid evidence of the existence of life around another star. Confined for centuries to the category of pure speculation and philosophical debates, the existence of life outside our solar system, is at the edge of reaching the stage of a testable scientific hypothesis.