

NCW's comments to George Howard:

In the middle of November 2023 I have an ecstatic letter from my former student and present collaborator Dr. Steve Coulson to say that the local organiser of an April 2024 conference (IAU and UK sponsored) in Durham UK wonders if I could give the evening public lecture at the conference on search for alien life. I agree and she then writes to me to ask for a title and an abstract that I supply. Now, a few days ago, she writes to say that my talk/abstract were rejected by the Scientific organising committee. These are the relevant letters:

Invitation via my colleague Dr Coulson

25 Nov 2023, 09:11

LANDT-WILMAN,
HERMINE <hermine.landt@durham.ac.uk>
to Stephen, me, RICHARD

Dear Steve,

Thank you very much for making this important contact with Prof Wickramasinghe for us. We would like to schedule his public lecture on Wednesday, April 17, 2024, 7-8 pm, in the largest lecture theatre of the University. Chandra, could you kindly send me a proposed title and abstract? If possible, we would like this lecture to cover also some of the history of panspermia and the establishment of the research field of astrobiology. As you probably know, we don't currently have astrobiology research at Durham University. However, we very much hope to be able to establish multi-disciplinary research in this area within a new centre (the Centre for Cosmic Impact), funding permitting.

Steve, the Kavli-IAU symposium is currently open for contributed talk submissions (until December 1). I expect that some abstracts covering the topic of panspermia could be scheduled on the Tuesday. Please send your talk title and abstract to: kavli-iau-2024@durham.ac.uk.

With kind regards,
Hermine

Dr Hermine ~~Landt-Wilman~~

Associate Professor & Daphne Jackson Fellow
Centre for Extragalactic Astronomy
Department of Physics
Durham University
UK

Bizzare retraction

From: LANDT-WILMAN, HERMINE <hermine.landt@durham.ac.uk>
Date: Wed, 17 Jan 2024 at 13:53
Subject: Re: Public lecture
To: ncwick@gmail.com <ncwick@gmail.com>

Dear Chandra,

A Happy New Year 2024 to you!

The Organising Committee have recently met to discuss and select the Public Lecture. Unfortunately, your abstract was not selected. I appreciate that this must be very disappointing news, but, nevertheless, I strongly hope to welcome you at the Kavli-IAU symposium.

With kind regards,
Hermine

*Cultural impediment?
Racial discrimination?*

This kind of behaviour has come to be normal in the present day.

I think the fear is that my priority in starting this whole field will come to light with my lecture, and their claim to take all this as theirs will be foiled.