

2026 space exploration symposium

The Search for Signs of Life Beyond Earth

Dr. Sara Seager
North Star Distinguished Professor
University of Toronto

For thousands of years, inspired by the starry night sky, humanity has wondered about what lies beyond Earth. Today, the search for signs of life is a key motivator in planetary exploration. Astronomers have discovered thousands of exoplanets orbiting stars other than the Sun and are studying their atmospheres for gases that could indicate life. Closer to home, renewed interest in Venus has led to investigations of its cloud layers, where temperatures are right for life. New discoveries in both exoplanets and Solar System bodies are bringing us closer to answering ancient questions about life beyond Earth. Professor Sara Seager will share the latest advances in this exciting field.

Thursday, 19 November 2026, 7pm
Muttart Theatre, Stanley Milner Library
7 Sir Winston Churchill Square



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