

Biographical Sketch: Seth Shostak

Seth is the Senior Astronomer at the SETI Institute, in Mountain View, California. He has an undergraduate degree in physics from Princeton University, and a doctorate in astronomy from the California Institute of Technology. For much of his career, Seth conducted radio astronomy research on galaxies, publishing approximately sixty papers in professional journals. For more than a decade, he worked at the Kapteyn Astronomical Institute, in Groningen, The Netherlands, using the Westerbork Radio Synthesis Telescope. He also founded and ran a computer animation company.

Seth has written more than four hundred published magazine and web articles on various topics in astronomy, technology, film and television. He lectures on astronomy and other subjects at various academic venues, and gives approximately 60 talks annually at both educational and corporate institutions. Seth has been a Distinguished Speaker for the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics. He also Chaired the International Academy of Astronautics' SETI Permanent Committee for a decade.

Frequently interviewed for radio and TV, Seth is the host of a one-hour weekly radio program on astrobiology entitled "Big Picture Science"

Seth has edited and contributed to nearly a dozen books. His first popular tome, "Sharing the Universe: Perspectives on Extraterrestrial Life" appeared in March, 1998, followed by "Cosmic Company" in 2002. He has also co-authored an astrobiology text, "Life in the Universe" that is now in its third edition, and his latest trade book is "Confessions of an Alien Hunter". In 2004, he won the Klumpke-Roberts Prize for the popularization of astronomy.