

# Spring 2023 Colloquium

Department of Physics & Astronomy,

Texas A&M University-Commerce

**April 13, Thursday, 4-5 PM in Science Building 127**

(coffee and cookies will be served at 3:50 PM)

## Astronomy

### The Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence in the 2020's

Dr. Jason Wright

Pennsylvania State University



Prof. Wright earned his BA at Boston University and MA and PhD in Astrophysics at UC Berkeley, where his thesis was on stellar magnetic activity and the detection of exoplanets. He worked as a postdoc at UC Berkeley and Cornell on radial velocity detection of giant exoplanets before heading to Penn State as a faculty member in 2009 where he has been ever since. There he serves in leadership roles of the NEID ("NOO-id" rhymes with "fluid"), HPF, and MINERVA planet finding instruments, and the director of the Penn State Extraterrestrial Intelligence Center. More information about Prof. Wright and his research can be found at

<http://sites.psu.edu/astrowright/>

#### Abstract

SETI (The Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence, or the search for technosignatures) is 60 years old, but in some ways is still a young field. I will describe a bit of its history, as well as several foundational ideas and philosophical perspectives I have about the endeavor. I'll cover the five "pillars" of SETI, and some projects I've worked on including the  $\hat{G}$  (G-HAT) survey for Dyson Spheres, studies of Boyajian's Star, and class projects of the PSETI Center's graduate students, including a SETI bibliography, reviews of the SETI literature, and a search in partnership with Breakthrough Listen to search for communication relays in the Solar System.