

Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Abiogenesis

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I will report on new interdisciplinary activities at the Institute for Advanced Study, in Princeton, NJ, USA, focused on the origins of life. We have recently started a series of weekly meetings, involving mathematicians, physicists, chemists, biologists, astrophysicists and others. Our discussions range from important technical details to more general meta-level discussions concerning the flow of information through biological networks and the characteristics of life in general, on Earth and possibly elsewhere in the Universe. We include scholars in humanities and linguistics, since there are interesting parallels between the origins of culture and the origins of life, and in general with the origins of "systems", where unreliable parts are used to create reliable systems. My work is inspired by my affiliation with ELSI, the new Earth-Life Science Institute at Tokyo Tech, under the WPI program of MEXT.

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