ELSI Annual Public Lecture FY2026

Life Shapes Worlds, Worlds Shape Life

2027. 1. 15 Fri.

19:00-20:50 Doors open at 18:30

Speakers



Tetsuhiro S. Hatakeyama
Associate Professor
Earth-Life Science Institute (ELSI), Institute of Science Tokyo

Lecture 1

'What is universal about life?'

Life on Earth is astonishingly diverse, yet simple, shared principles may underlie metabolism, cellular growth, responses to the environment, and evolution. Would the same principles hold if life evolved on a very different world? Drawing on theoretical studies of living systems, this talk explores the universality hidden beneath life' s diversity and asks what life on Earth might share with life elsewhere.



Paula Prondzinsky
Postdoctoral Researcher
Japan Agency for Marine -Earth Science and Technology (JAMSTEC)

Lecture 2

'How does microscopic life shape a planet?'

Microbes inhabit every environment on Earth, from extreme habitats such as polar regions, deserts, and the deep sea to familiar environments around us. By studying their DNA and growing them in the laboratory, scientists are uncovering how these tiny organisms evolved and how they survive in environments once thought uninhabitable. In this talk, we will explore how microorganisms have shaped Earth' s ecosystems for billions of years and continue to drive processes that sustain life today.



Moderator

Ryuhei Nakamura
Professor
Earth-Life Science Institute (ELSI), Institute of Science Tokyo

Venue

Multi-Purpose Digital Hall, Ookayama West Bldg. 9
Ookayama Campus, Institute of Science Tokyo
(Ookayama Station, Tokyu Line, 3 min walk)

Organiser

Earth-Life Science Institute (ELSI),
Institute of Science Tokyo

Language

Japanese/English
(Simultaneous Interpretation)

Fee

Free

Registration

Prior registration is required via the registration website or code.
Capacity is limited to 300 participants.
Registration closes at noon on Thursday, 14 January 2027, or earlier if capacity is reached.

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