

Talks Program. NLO Family Fun Day 2024.

11:30 – 11:55 Marco Agolzer, Space-Exe Society, University of Exeter

A talk on "Hunting for life in our Solar System", which will cover the various candidates for extraterrestrial life in our Solar System, biosignatures and the various ongoing space missions. The Europa Clipper is also planned to launch on the 10th of October this year.

Marco Agolzer is a 3rd year Master's student at the University of Exeter.

12:05 – 12:30 Dr Sebastiaan Krijt, Senior Lecturer in Astrophysics, University of Exeter

"Studying exoplanet formation with ALMA and the James Webb Space Telescope"

A talk on our ongoing efforts to understand how exo-planets form inside protoplanetary discs, and how these ideas are linked to the formation of potentially habitable planets.

Sebastiaan Krijt is a lecturer at the University of Exeter working on protoplanetary disc evolution and planet formation. He got his PhD in Leiden and was a NASA Hubble Fellow in Chicago and Arizona before moving to Exeter in 2020.

12:45 – 13:30 Dr. Vince Smith, Honorary Senior Research Fellow at Bristol University

The talk: "What Time is it on Mars?" will begin by looking at some details of time measurement on Earth, including different definitions of the day, month and year, why the Earth is slowing down and how to adjust a sundial to tell the correct time. Then we look at how this will need to change when we travel to Mars and live there. For example: how long will we have available to sleep each night, and how many months are there in a year on Mars?

Dr Vincent Smith worked for over 40 years lecturing and researching in the Physics Department of Bristol University. He has also taught Physics in the USA, Australia and Sri Lanka. He is now an Honorary Senior Research Fellow at Bristol, which means he still works for the University, but they don't pay him! His research is in Experimental Elementary Particle Physics, and he is proud to have been among the few thousand scientists and engineers who worked together to discover the Higgs boson at CERN in 2012. He continues to make occasional visits to CERN, working shifts taking data on the Compact Muon Solenoid experiment at the Large Hadron Collider. Back in the UK, he is a STEM Ambassador, giving physics talks and workshops to audiences from primary schools to the University of the 3rd Age.