



IoP evening lecture (open to secondary school students and the general public)

**Tuesday 12 September 2017**

7:30pm, Large Lecture Theatre, Poynting Physics, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor (refreshments from 6:30pm).

**“The planet factory - exoplanets and the search for a second Earth” By Prof Elizabeth Tasker (based on her recent book)**

Twenty years ago, the search for planets outside the Solar System was a job restricted to science-fiction writers. Now it is one of the fastest-growing fields in astronomy with thousands of exoplanets discovered to date, and the number is rising fast. These new-found worlds are more alien than anything in fiction. Planets larger than Jupiter with years lasting a week; others with two suns lighting their skies, or with no sun at all. Planets with diamond mantles supporting oceans of tar; possible Earth-sized worlds with split hemispheres of perpetual day and night; waterworlds drowning under global oceans and volcanic lava planets awash with seas of magma. The discovery of this diversity is just the beginning.

Elizabeth Tasker is an astrophysicist who spends her time building fake universes inside a computer. After a degree in theoretical physics, she went on to complete her doctorate at Oxford. She is now an associate professor at the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA).

**No need to book places, just turn up on the evening. For more information please contact Lynne Long at [L.Long@bham.ac.uk](mailto:L.Long@bham.ac.uk)**

## Venue

University of Birmingham  
School of Physics and Astronomy  
Edgbaston Campus, B15 2TT

Poynting Physics Building, Second Floor  
Large Lecture Theatre

## Access:

Parking outside the building is free and usually available at evening lecture times.

We have a University railway station on campus with a 7 minute train ride out of Birmingham New Street.

<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/Documents/university/edgbaston-campus-map.pdf>

Refreshments are available from 7.00pm.

Lectures start at 7:30pm.

We finish by 9:00pm.

They are free and open to all.