

**Submission to present at the
SETI Institute Workshop: Decoding Alien Intelligence**

Session Title: The Anomaly Engine: AI and the Detection of Alien Intelligence

Session Abstract:

Not once, in all of recorded history, has the advancement of science ever sent mankind the message “*Good news, you are more important than you thought you were!*”. Although it bruises our ego to admit it, science has relentlessly shown the opposite to be true. The Earth is not the center of the solar system, and the universe does not end with the Milky Way galaxy. The extrapolation of this trend is that we are simply not important enough to have signs of alien intelligence sent to our attention; instead, we must pick through the hints that come to us by accident. Moreover, there is no reason to believe we are intelligent enough to ever really understand what is going on around us; after all, we are just fractionally smarter than primates, so why would that subtle jump in IQ magically turn out to be the difference between limited awareness and total enlightenment? Accordingly, this session will present the argument that artificial intelligence is a critical component of detecting the subtle signs of alien intelligence that would otherwise be intellectually out of reach, and make some recommendations for how we can begin that journey.