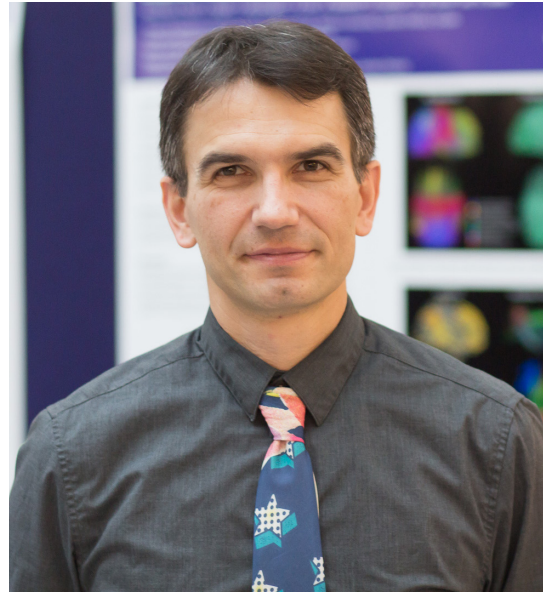




DEPARTMENT OF
PHYSICS & ASTRONOMY
SPEAKER SERIES

The Best Extrasolar Planets

Stanimir Metchev
Western University



Thurs, March 7
1:40-2:55PM
D632

Everyone welcome!

Hollywood movies adopt the names of actual exoplanets to enhance the ‘sci’ cred in sci-fi. NASA has opened an Exoplanet Travel Bureau, even if tickets are yet to be available. How close are we to actually detecting extrasolar life? The prospect seems remote, and faces huge technological challenges. Yet, we already know of other Earth-like planets that orbit in the habitable zones of their host stars. Planets that are temperate enough to preserve liquid water on their surfaces. The answer may be “surprisingly

close!” Perhaps even before you’ve finished university. Simple, ingenious astrophysics is allowing us to find the best extrasolar planets to search for life. The forthcoming launch of the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) may just have the requisite sensitivity to detect it.

University of
Lethbridge

