

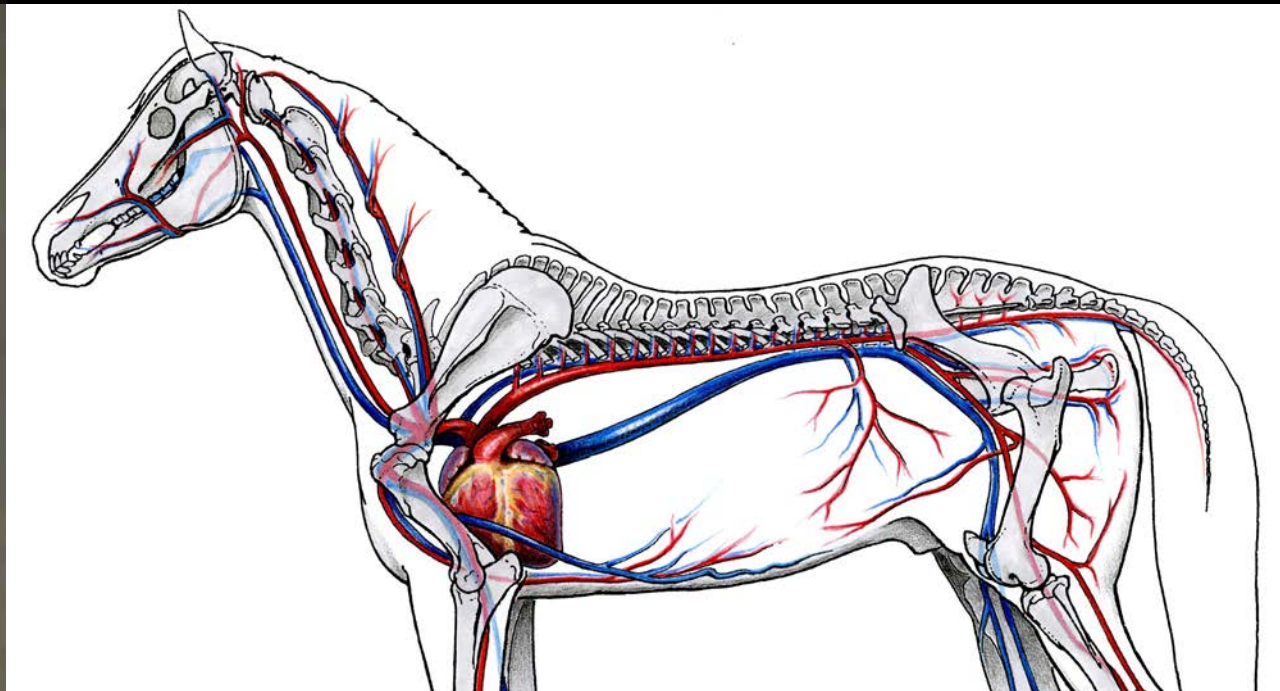
# IS SPACE AVAILABLE? IS SPACE AVAILABLE?

LUCAS MIX

SPACE RESOURCES: PROMISING OR PROBLEMATIC?

RADCLIFFE, 10/16/18







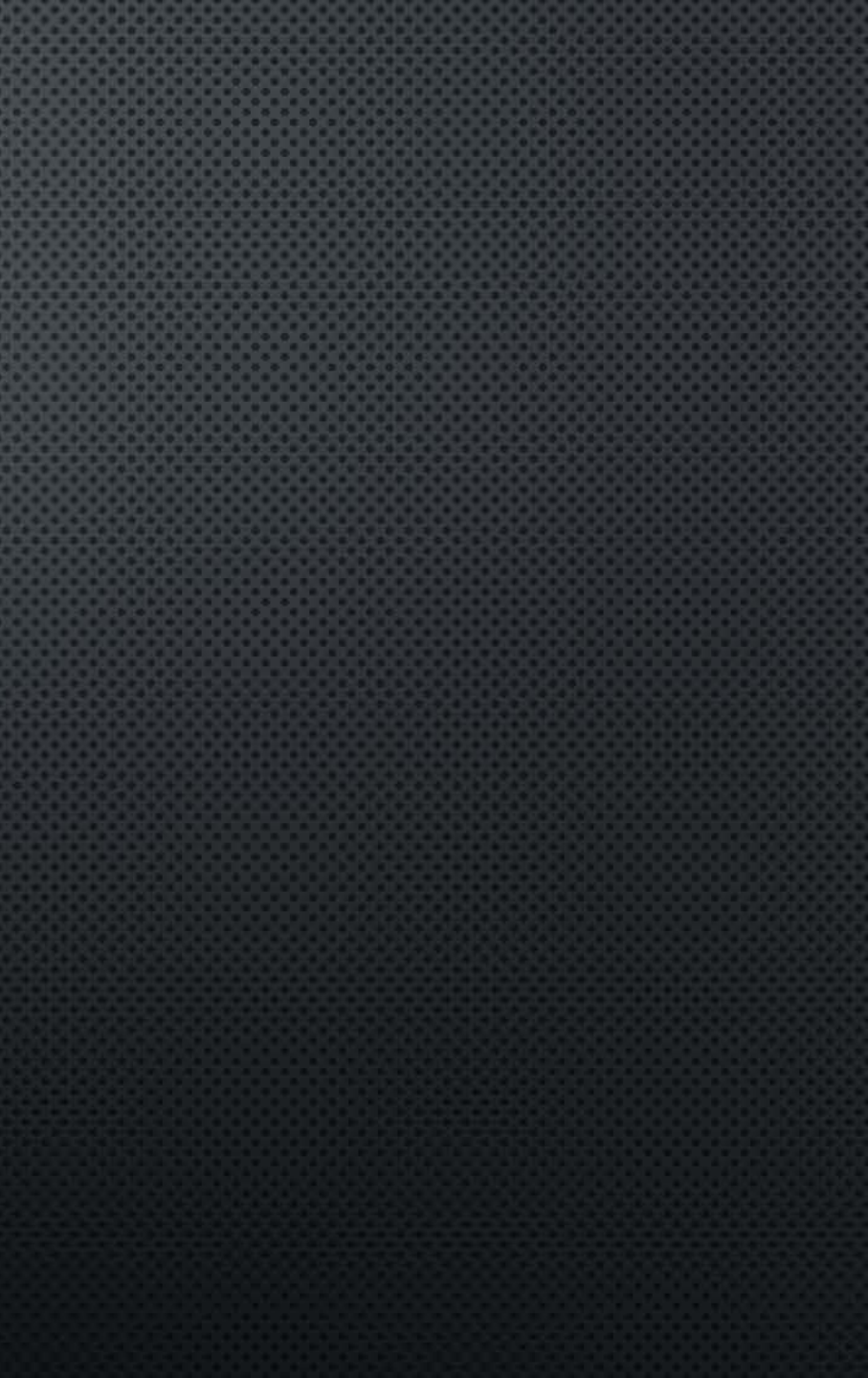






“Persons”









Space: “a continuous area or expanse which is free, available, or unoccupied” *OED*



## Outer Space Treaty (1967) Article IX

In the exploration and use of outer space, including the moon and other celestial bodies, States Parties to the Treaty shall be guided by the principle of co-operation and mutual assistance and shall conduct all their activities in outer space, including the moon and other celestial bodies, with due regard to the corresponding interests of all other States Parties to the Treaty. States Parties to the Treaty shall pursue studies of outer space, including the moon and other celestial bodies, and **conduct exploration of them so as to avoid their harmful contamination** and also adverse changes in the environment of the Earth resulting from the introduction of extraterrestrial matter and, where necessary, shall adopt appropriate measures for this purpose. If a State Party to the Treaty has reason to believe that an activity or experiment planned by it or its nationals in outer space, including the moon and other celestial bodies, would cause potentially harmful interference with activities of other States Parties in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space, including the moon and other celestial bodies, it shall undertake appropriate international consultations before proceeding with any such activity or experiment. A State Party to the Treaty which has reason to believe that an activity or experiment planned by another State Party in outer space, including the moon and other celestial bodies, would cause **potentially harmful interference with activities in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space**, including the moon and other celestial bodies, may request consultation concerning the activity or experiment.



# **Convention on Fishing and Conservation of the Living Resources of the High Seas (1958)**

conservation = measures that maximize human food resources



# Commercial Space Launch Competitiveness Act (2015, HR 2262)

"space resources" limited to **abiotic resources in situ**





## Person

Will

Ends

Intrinsic Value



## Object

Mechanical

Purposeless

Extrinsic Value Only





**Person**

Will

Ends

Intrinsic Value

**Human Bodies?**



**Object**

Mechanical

Purposeless

Extrinsic Value Only



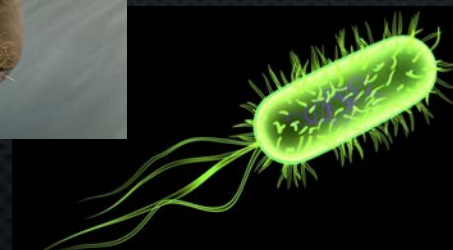


**Person**

Will

Ends

Intrinsic Value



**Object**

Mechanical

Purposeless

Extrinsic Value Only

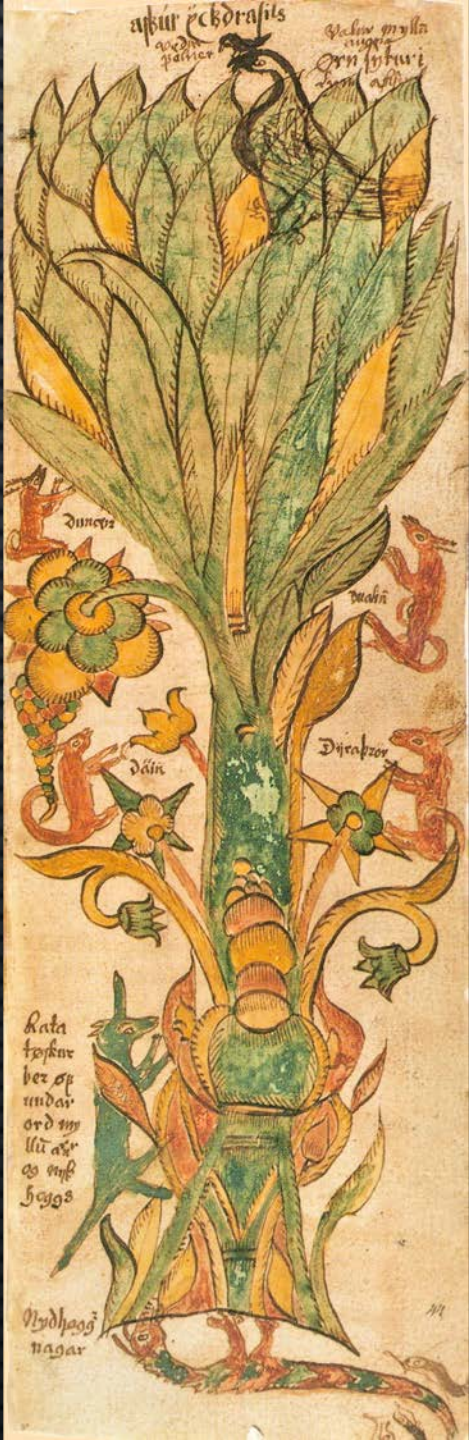




**Available Space?**  
(Enlightenment)

**Alternatives:**  
cosmopsychism  
Theocentrism  
broad utilitarianism



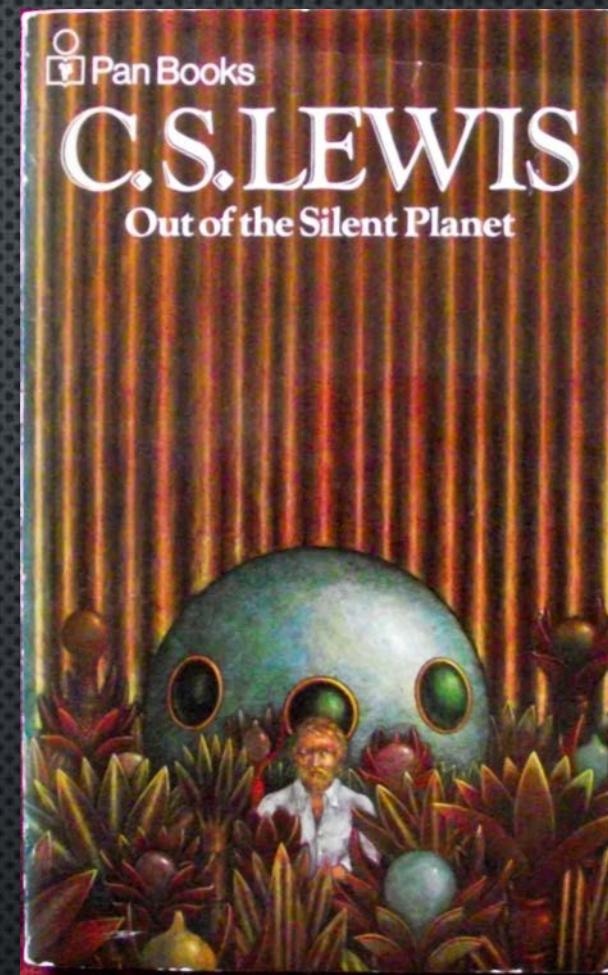


Yggdrasil  
Edda Oblongata  
c. 1680

## Cosmopsychism



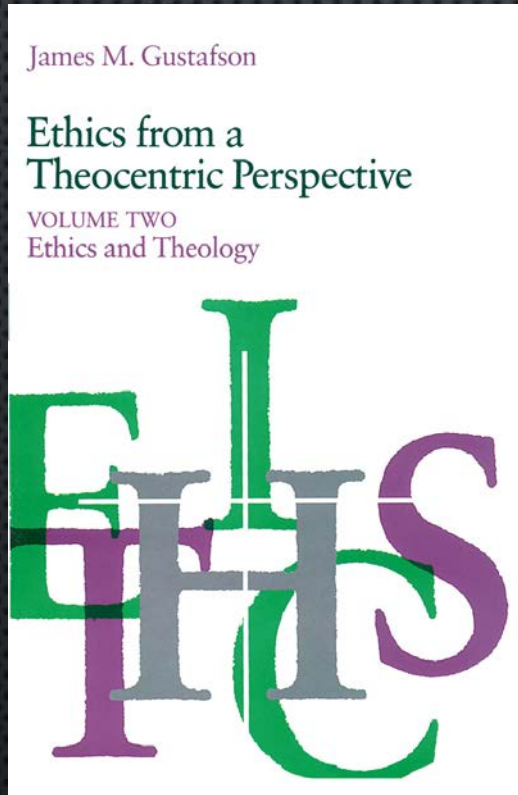
*Sister Mother Earth*  
Sr. Jo Goolish OSF



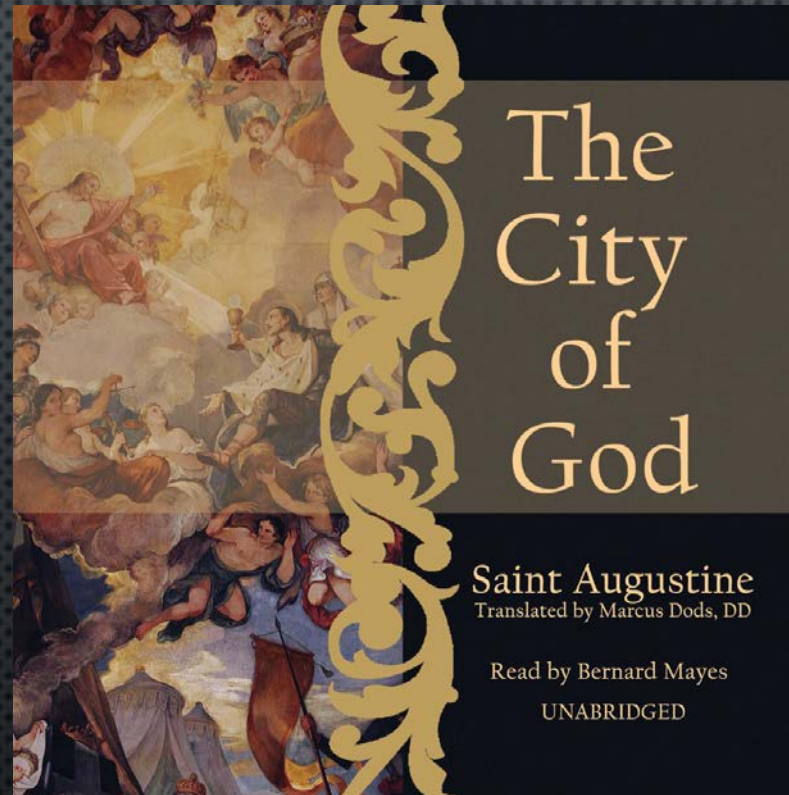
*Out of the Silent Planet*  
CS. Lewis  
1938



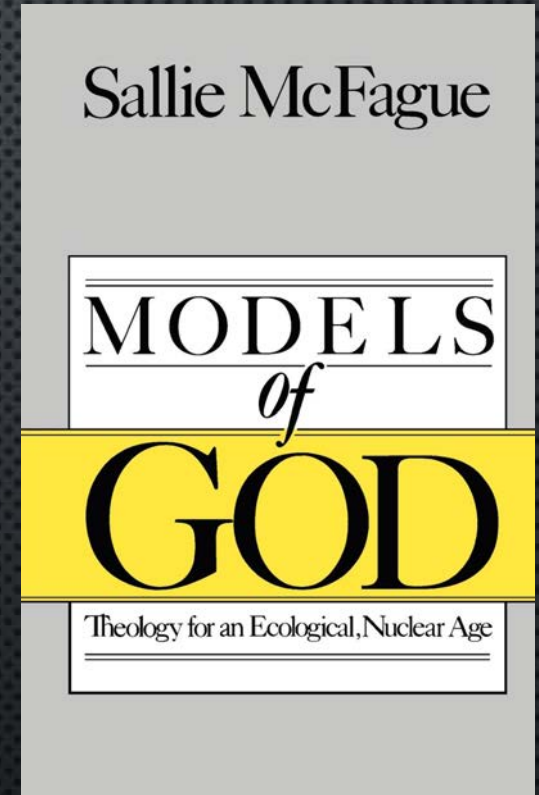
# Theocentrism



*Ethics from a Theocentric  
Perspective*  
James Gustafson, 1981

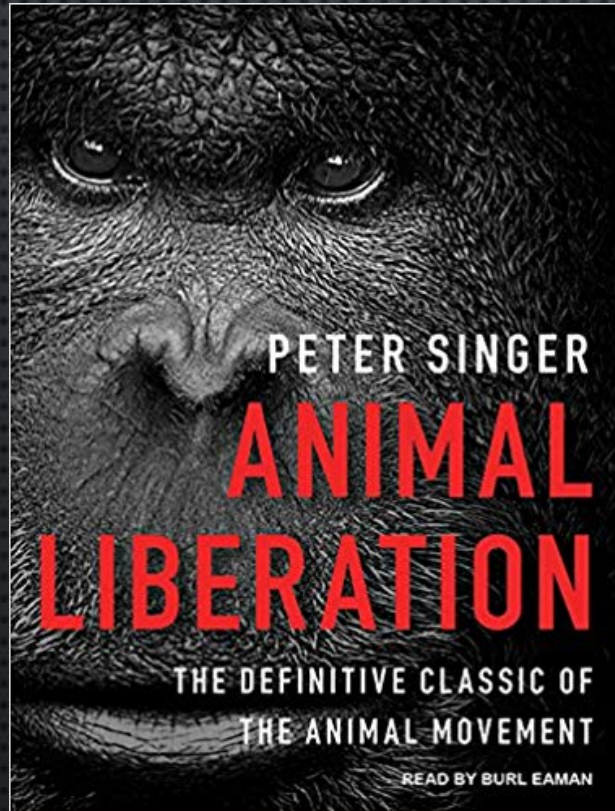


*The City of God*  
Augustine of Hippo  
5<sup>th</sup> century



*Models of God*  
Sallie McFague  
1987





*Animal Liberation*  
Peter Singer  
1975



Saṃsāra





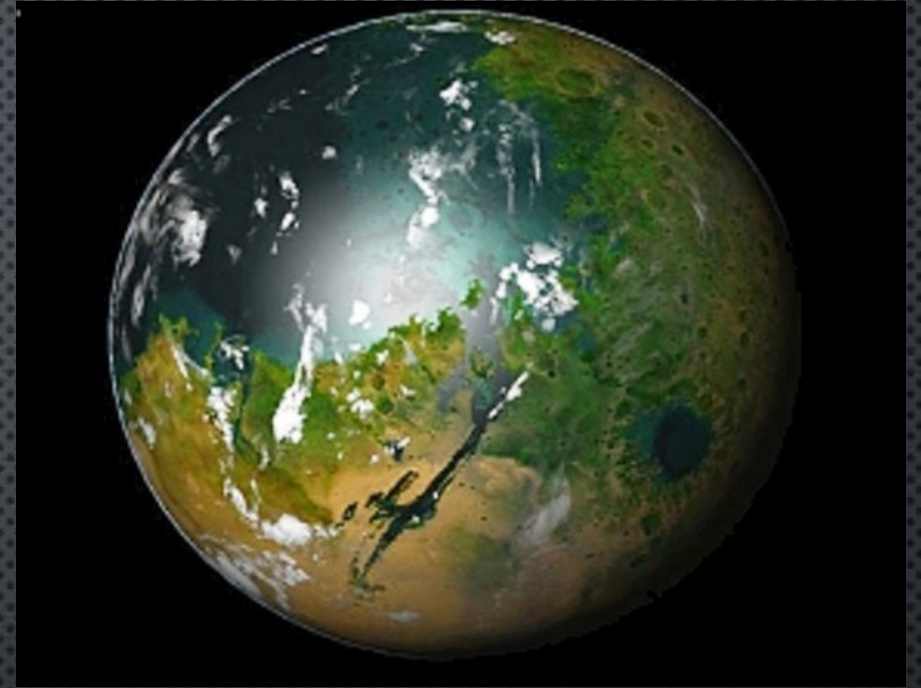
**PLATE X**  
Voyager 1 photograph taken from the outer edge of the solar system, showing the Earth as a pale blue dot in a sunbeam.





# FUTURE QUESTIONS

- AT WHAT POINT DO CONTAMINANTS BECOME IN SITU BIOLOGICALS?
- IF HUMANS COLONIZE SPACE, WILL THEY CONTINUE TO BE VIEWED AS PERSONS ON PAR WITH PERSONS ON EARTH?

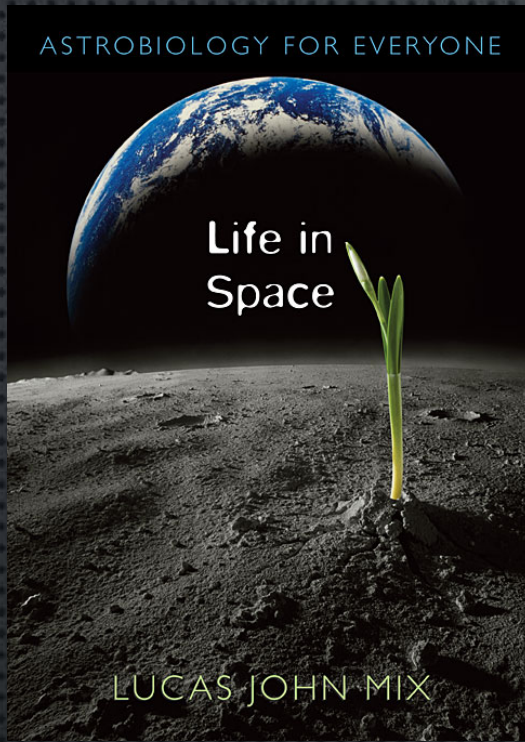




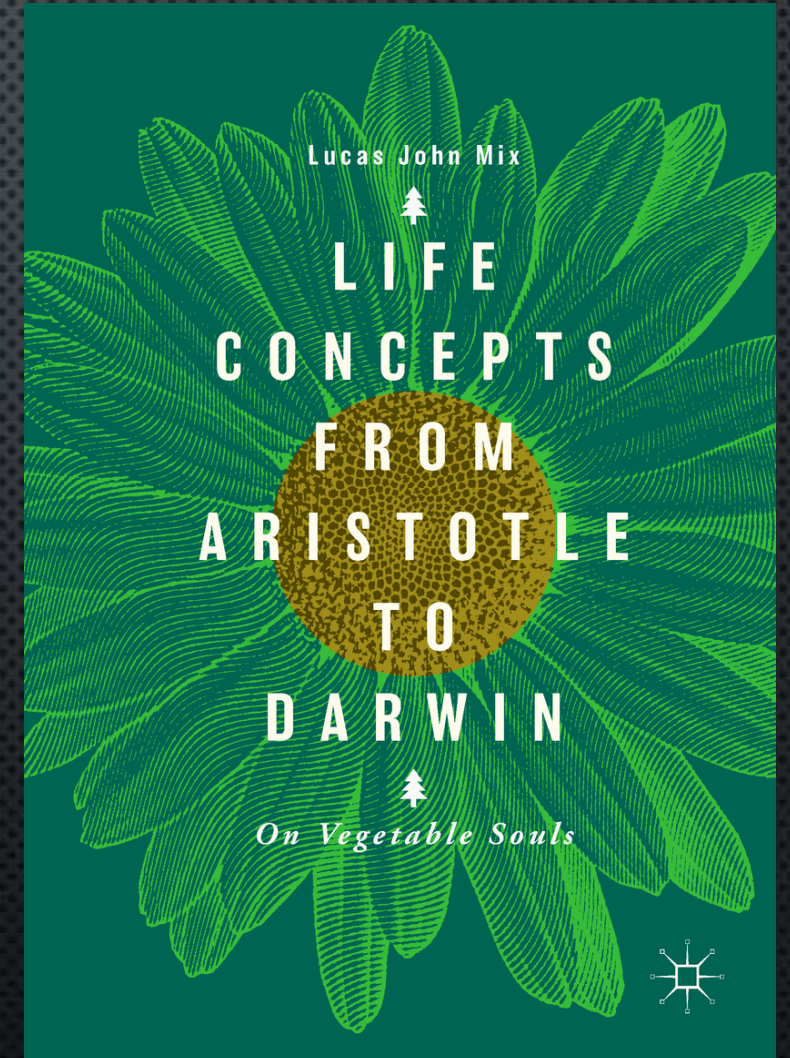
# SPACE RESOURCES

- WHOSE INTERESTS ARE RELEVANT TO OUR DISCUSSION?
- WHO HAS RELEVANT AGENCY TO EFFECT CHANGE?
- DOES ANY INTRINSIC VALUE EXIST BEYOND EARTH? BEYOND HUMANITY?
- HOW DOES THE POTENTIAL FOR ET LIFE OR PERSONHOOD SHAPE THE DISCUSSION?





Mix, LJ (2009) *Life in Space: Astrobiology for Everyone*. Harvard Press.



Mix, LJ (2018) *Life Concepts from Aristotle to Darwin: On Vegetable Souls*. Palgrave-Macmillan.



# THANK YOU

- DAVID HAIG AND JOHN WAKELEY, ORGANISMIC AND EVOLUTIONARY BIOLOGY
- CENTER OF THEOLOGICAL INQUIRY PRINCETON
- NASA ASTROBIOLOGY AND THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON ASTROBIOLOGY PROGRAM
- SOCIETY FOR SOCIAL AND CONCEPTUAL ISSUES IN ASTROBIOLOGY  
([HTTPS://SOCIA.SPACE/](https://socia.space/))





