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Nota di contenuto	Introduction: The search for extraterrestrial intelligence as an interdisciplinary effort / Albert A. Harrison and Douglas A. Vakoch -- Does extraterrestrial life exist? Are we alone? Estimating the prevalence of extraterrestrial intelligence / Seth Shostak ; Encountering alternative intelligences : cognitive archaeology and SETI / Paul K. Wason ; The lifetimes of scientific civilizations and the genetic evolution of the brain / Alan Penny ; "L" on Earth / Kathryn Denning -- Reactions to discovering life beyond Earth. Can SETI fulfill the value agenda of cultural anthropology? / Donald E. Tarter ; American attitudes about life beyond Earth : beliefs, concerns, and the role of education and religion in shaping public perceptions / George Pettinico ; Cultural beliefs about extraterrestrials : a questionnaire study / William Sims Bainbridge ; The science and politics of SETI : how to succeed in an era of make-believe history and pseudoscience / Albert A. Harrison -- Communication with extraterrestrial intelligence. Cultural aspects of interstellar communication / Carl L. DeVito ; Cosmic storytelling : primitive observables as Rosetta analogies / Harry Letaw, Jr. ; Direct contact with extraterrestrials via computer emulation / William Sims Bainbridge ; The inscrutable names of God : the Jesuit missions of New France as a

model for SETI-related spiritual questions / Jason T. Kuznicki ; ET phone Darwin : what can an evolutionary understanding of animal communication and art contribute to our understanding of methods for interstellar communication? / Kathryn Coe, Craig T. Palmer, and Christina Pomianek ; A journalistic perspective on SETI-related message composition / Morris Jones.

Sommario/riassunto

Astronomers around the world are pointing their telescopes toward the heavens, searching for signs of intelligent life. If they make contact with an advanced alien civilization, how will humankind respond? In thinking about first contact, the contributors to this volume present new empirical and theoretical research on the societal dimensions of the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence (SETI). Archaeologists and astronomers explore the likelihood that extraterrestrial intelligence exists, using scientific insights to estimate such elusive factors as the longevity
