

I am not sure whether mine is the best overall book on the subject, but it is certainly the most radical. Its original title was *SETI: A Fool's Errand*. I changed this at the last minute to *Reinventing SETI* lest readers wrongly assume that I am anti-SETI. I am actually pro-SETI (e.g., I am a former chairman of the board of the SETI Institute), but feel that the field needs to be almost completely reconceptualized. Here is a thumbnail of the chapters, laying out my main theses:

Introduction. I define SETI as a proto-science akin to medieval alchemy, abounding in foolishness.

Ch. 1. Fermi's Faux Paradox. Fermi's Paradox is neither a paradox nor represents Fermi's own expressed position.

Ch. 2. Reconsidering a Sacred Cow: The Drake Equation. When dissected factor by factor, the Drake Equation is found to be wrong in its every detail, utterly useless and actually counterproductive. Frank was a dear friend and colleague, but nonetheless it is time for his eponymous equation to go.

Ch. 3. Standard Observational SETI: It's Time to Move On. The standard SETI protocol, observing individual stars for 10 minutes each, should be abandoned. ET would know that transmitting across interstellar space is a dreadful strategy.

Ch. 4. What's There to Talk About Anyway? Mutually comprehensible communication across interstellar space would be virtually impossible.

Ch. 5. The chapter title says it all: METI [proactive transmissions from Earth to ET]: Beyond Folly to the Stupid, Arrogant, Delusional, and Downright Dangerous.

Ch. 6. Extraterrestrials Hit the Road--Or Not. Interstellar travel by biological beings such as ourselves is virtually impossible.

Ch. 7. There's No Place Like Home. It follows that if there is no escaping star death then sheltering in place within one's own solar system becomes the only viable solution to survival. Consequently, the best SETI targets are not stars that are similar to our own (F, G, or K) but dead stars, i.e., white dwarfs. All these years, we have been looking in the wrong place.

Ch. 8. ET's best, if not only, useful tool for situational awareness, science or communication would be by means of robotic probes. If we encounter ET we will find it here within our own Solar System (not to be confused with UFOs and UAPs, of which I express deep skepticism in the book).

Ch. 9. Humanity needs to do contingency planning now for such an encounter.

Ch. 10. Such planning in part should entail an international treaty. I offer a first draft.