

# Listening to Venus

What we have learned about  
Climate, Life and Ourselves  
by exploring our neighboring planet

3. June 2016

18:00 – 19:00

Talk and songs by  
Dr. David Grinspoon,  
astrobiologist at the  
Planetary Science Institute  
Washington DC USA  
Public event. Free entrance.

## Venue

Universität Bern, UniS A022  
Schanzeneckstrasse 1, 3012 Bern

## Contact

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# Listening to Venus

## **Abstract of Dr. David Grinspoon's talk**

From the beginning of history, Venus - the brightest planet in the night sky - has been an object of human worship and wonder. In the space age it has also become a destination for exploration. The nearest other planet to Earth is an example of an Earth-like planet that has evolved to have an extreme climate. Beneath the cloudy atmosphere lies a volcanic surface with many strange parallels to the geology of our own world. If we learn to listen to Venus, there is much to discover about our own origins, about climate change, the limits to life in the universe, and the fate of the Earth.

In a lively and engaging talk punctuated with musical performances, Dr. David Grinspoon will present a vivid overview of the human relationship with «Earth's twinplanet» Venus, from ancient mythology to modern interplanetary exploration.

## **Bio of Dr. David Grinspoon**

David Grinspoon, Senior Scientist at Planetary Science Institute in Washington DC, USA, is an astrobiologist and prize-winning author and science communicator. In 2013 he was appointed as the inaugural Chair of Astrobiology at the U.S. Library of Congress, researching his forthcoming book «Earth in Human Hands». He is a frequent advisor to NASA on space exploration strategy, and is on the science team of several active interplanetary spacecraft missions. His technical papers have been published in *Nature*, *Science*, and numerous other leading journals. Grinspoon's popular writing has appeared in *Scientific American*, *Natural History*, the *Los Angeles Times*, the *New York Times* and various other media. He is also the author and editor of several books, including «Venus Revealed», which was a finalist for the «Los Angeles Times Book Prize», and «Lonely Planets»: «The Natural Philosophy of Alien Life», which won the «PEN Center USA Literary Award» for Nonfiction. Grinspoon appears frequently as a science commentator on television and radio. He is also an award-winning musician and entertainer, who leads the «House Band of the Universe». His live appearances combine riveting, thought-provoking science with comedy, music and pop-culture references.