

# EDITORIAL

Welcome to issue 52 of *Principium*, the quarterly magazine of i4is, the Initiative and Institute for Interstellar Studies.

The study of our Solar System and the cosmos at large never fails to fascinate a significant proportion of our species. Gazing at the skies - and attempting to ascribe meaning and understanding to what we witness - is one of the oldest human activities. We are fortunate to live in an age where ground-based and space-based instruments can vastly enhance our comprehension of the physical nature of our universe.

We have recently become accustomed to the detection of interstellar visitors to our Solar System, naturally resulting in increasing scrutiny to these interlopers. Although this scrutiny may not directly assist us to, say, send a swarm to Proxima Centauri b (see *Principium* issue 49, page 27 <https://i4is.org/principium-49>), it does serve to increase the interest surrounding all things interstellar. It will be encouraging to witness the increase in scientific rigour applied to the study of these transient visitors; it will be exciting for those with the skills, knowledge and fortitude to collaborate in that science.

Consider similar cosmic research endeavours such as exoplanets; too niche to mention thirty years ago but look how fast that field advanced. We imagine the progression and maturation of these interstellar studies will follow a similar path. With that in mind, our lead feature focuses on the latest research surrounding these interstellar visitors. I was thrilled to hear, just moments ago, that Adam Hibberd's paper *Catching 3I/ATLAS Using a Solar Oberth* (see page 6) has been featured in the *BBC Sky at Night* magazine.

We have plenty of *Interstellar News* highlights and our regular feature *The Journals* summary contains several interstellar peer-reviewed papers from The Journal of the British Interplanetary Society (JBIS), thanks again to the final publications of Project Icarus. *Acta Astronautica* also provides a couple of offerings.

We have reluctantly dropped the full report on IAC25, given that paper selection for IAC26 will be finalised at their spring meetings in Paris very soon. Apologies for any disappointment. We also live in hope that a long promised book review will feature in the next edition.

We will see you again in May 2026 with issue 53 and please see *Working towards the real Final Frontier* on page 30 if you want to join us for the journey.



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