



Earth. Planets. Climate. Life.



Massachusetts  
Institute of  
Technology

**THIRD ANNUAL WILLIAM F. BRACE LECTURE**

**MIT Department of Earth, Atmospheric and Planetary Sciences**

## **Earth in Human Hands:**

# **A Cosmic View of Our Planet's Past, Present, and Future**

*Presented by David Grinspoon,*

*Senior Scientist at the Planetary Science Institute*

What are we doing here on this planet? Can a deep-time and deep-space viewpoint help us gain the perspective to create a sustainable civilization? In this talk, David Grinspoon will illuminate the unusual nature of the “Anthropocene,” our current time of human-driven planetary changes, in order to reframe our environmental predicaments as part of a larger narrative of planetary evolution. This saga has now reached the pivotal moment when humans have become a major agent of global change, and geological and human history are becoming irreversibly conjoined. Is this a likely or even inevitable challenge facing other complex life in the universe? Possible implications for SETI (the search for extraterrestrial intelligence) will be considered, as well as the choices our civilization faces in seeking to foster a wisely managed Earth.

**4PM — Tuesday, March 21st**

**Room 34-101**

**EG&G Education Center | MIT Campus**