**About me:**

This is my bio for an astrobiology conference in Oxford in 2015

“ Robert has had a long term special interest in astronomy, and space

science since the 1970s, and most of these blog posts currently are about

Mars and space exploration. He is the programmer for for Tune Smithy, Bounce

Metronome, Virtual flower, Lissajous 3D, and Activity Timer. Robert trained

as a mathematician originally and received a high first class honours degree

in maths. Went on to study philosophy (second undergraduate degree completed

with two years study instead of three), then to do post graduate research

into set theory and foundations of mathematics. He then got involved in

programming music after he invented a particular type of fractal tune based

on self similar sloth canon sequences.”

My presentation for that conference is here ["Super Positive" Outcomes For Search for Life In Enceladus and Europa Oceans - Robert Walker](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9fFdyZKIdpQ)

I haven't yet had anything published in astrobiology journals, but plan to

submit this paper for publication in the near future, provisional title:

* [NASA and ESA are likely to be legally required to sterilize Mars samples to protect the environment until proven safe – technology doesn't yet exist to comply with ESF study's requirement to contain viable starved ultramicrobacteria that are proven to pass through 0.1 micron nanopores - proposal to study samples remotely in a safe high orbit above GEO with miniature life detection instruments – and immediately return sterilized subsamples to Earth](https://osf.io/rk2gd/)

Before that I worked on a general paper on biosphere collisions, again not yet submitted anywhere:

* [Potential Severe Effects of a Biosphere Collision and Planetary Protection Implications](https://osf.io/kad38/)

So I’ve been researching on the topic for some years now but not yet submitted anything for publication.

I also have a blog on Science 2.0 where I write blog posts on many topics and

have often blogged about planetary protection in the past.

For some of my blog posts at Science 2.0 on this topic of protection of Earth

for a Mars sample return:

* [Will First Mars Astronauts Stay In Orbit - Tele-operating Sterile Rovers - To Protect Earth And Mars From Colliding Biospheres?](https://www.science20.com/robert_walker/will_first_mars_astronauts_have_to_st)
* [Let's Make Sure Astronauts Won't Extinguish Native Mars Life - Op Ed](https://www.science20.com/robert_walker/lets_make_sure_astronauts_wont_exting)
* [Likely 2040 Before Mars Samples Returned Safely, Legally -Yet Not Likely To Return Life - Needs To Be Detected In Situ First](https://www.science20.com/robert_walker/likely_2040_before_mars_samples_retur)
* [Protecting Mars - And Earth - From What - And Why Bother? Our Inheritance Of Unopened Astrobiological Treasure Chests](https://www.science20.com/robert_walker/protecting_mars_and_earth_from_what_a)
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And here is my free self-published online book on planetary protection where I expand on many of these themes.

* [OK to Touch Mars? Europa? Enceladus? Or a Tale of Missteps?](https://robertinventor.online/booklets/If_humans_touch_Mars.htm)