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Interdisciplinary Aspects of the Multiverse Concept

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Message from the Guest Editor

Dear Colleagues,

Summary/Rationale: In the distant past, the concept of a vast cosmos and possible multiplicity of universes was predominantly a philosophical (or theological) concept. However, over the span of the last half-century, proposals for a multiverse have developed as a result of our ongoing scientific understanding of our universe, in combination with our simultaneous perplexity of many of its features. For example, a multiverse can explain the apparent fine-tuning of our universe for life, and especially for sentient life. For many cosmologists, a multiverse has come to be perceived as an inevitable outcome of the quantum mechanical processes that likely produced our universe.

Nevertheless, the increased focus on the multiverse concept has sparked growing attention and debate both within, and between, the scientific and philosophical communities. Disagreement abounds regarding whether the multiverse concept is a proper subject for scientific inquiry or if instead it should be understood primarily as a philosophical concept. This Special Issue of *Sci* is dedicated to this debate.



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Special Issue