Cultural Diffusion Of SETI

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The author proposes that with the continual search by SETI of extra-terrestrial civilizations comes the large chance of successful contact. History shows us many cases of cultures and civilizations first and continued contact with each other and the fundamental changes that can happen to those cultures. This contact resulted in the transmission of culture traits and transmission back and forth between cultures. It is likely that any civilization contacted would be more technologically advanced than us but still cultural trait transmission might occur two ways. T. Kuhn in the “Structure of Scientific Revolutions” maintains that anomalies of data accumulate until paradigms shift. Major cultures changed as European cultures did, and some other cultures were almost annihilated, with the discovery of the new world and the circumnavigation of the world. Even the very description “new world” semantically indicates how powerful the discovery was. If radio signals from a civilization are detected the boundaries of our civilization will expand. Past discoveries have created tension and change within historical cultures. Over the last 500 years our civilization has gone from Earth or nation centered world views to today where we are not the center of the universe but a small planet on a spiral of one of many galaxies in a big universe. The next logical step in our world view is if SETI works and makes our terrestrial civilization as one of many civilizations. Many beliefs of our global society are deeply rooted in Earth centered views and SETI’s success will challenge many culture views.