



# The Other World Seen by Animals



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Much of what we understand about the world comes from our eyes, which sense the colours from red to violet that are expressed in the rainbow. Yet we know that this patch of colours is just our own home island in the vast electromagnetic spectrum, which extends from radio waves to gamma rays. Two unseen regions of great importance to us are those just above and just below the rainbow – the infrared and ultraviolet, respectively.

These were discovered about 200 years ago in inspired experiments that anyone can understand, originally conducted by Frederick William Herschel and Johann Wilhelm Ritter. Only recently has it come to be understood that a variety of animals live in a visual world totally unfamiliar to us, particularly in the ultraviolet. I will discuss this from the perspective of measurement science, and demonstrate other influences of the ultraviolet in technology, astronomy and climate change.

Free and Open to the Public!



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