

SPACE EXPLORATION SYMPOSIUM (A3)
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MOTIVATIONS FOR HUMAN SPACE EXPLORATION - THE NEXT GENERATIONS
PERSPECTIVES

Abstract

Many studies have focused on highlighting motivations for human space exploration in different ways. A good example of this is W. S. Bainbridge's paper in 2009 which highlights some of the motivations for space exploration as identified through a 1986 survey in the US. However, a more global study focusing on motivations around the world does not exist. It is obvious that the motivations of people for space exploration and their priorities will be different in different parts of the world. Economic situation and culture are just some of the factors that affect personal opinion. This study aims to understand the motivations for space exploration, as viewed by students and young professionals around the world working in the aerospace sector and those not working in this sector. Data gathered through online surveys in several regions of the world is used to highlight major motivations in different regions and the factors that might be affecting such opinions.