

Transcending Societal Issues for Space Exploration (12)
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MEANINGS OF FAILURE

Abstract

Our Society builds on the expectation of fast approvals, fast changes and high impacts. The current communication system prones to promote dynamic contexts (like improvements or changes) while discouraging failure. Then, such blueprint has been extended to educational services and decision-making processes. Indeed, the new forms of victory come at the expense of a more vague concept of failure. Looking at the foreseeable future of space, how can such a future become a success if failure is a tabu? The advances of space exploration are been translated and transferred to terrestrial applications. Yet, there are great paradoxes across the World. For example, climate change is in good part a human-made emergency, but we are sure we will not exploit the lands of the Moon or Mars. Then, we are investing in permanent human presence in outer space, while people are dying in the sea or in a war fighting for a better future in their native lands. In addition, we are investigating many ways to guarantee cohesion and wellbeing of astronauts in space. At the same time, researchers undergo intense stress and mental health issues due to the underestimated importance of cohesion and wellbeing in work environments. Thus, are we investing in an idealized image of human beings in outer space? The majority of the crises of our Society are red flags. There are high hopes for Humanity in space, but the reality on Earth shows that we are far from the desired goals because we forget how to deal with various forms of failure. In this regards, the Space Exploration Project Group of the Space Generation Advisory Council reports the view of young space enthusiasts on the concept of failure. Data have been collected through online surveys.