

IAF SPACE EDUCATION AND OUTREACH SYMPOSIUM (E1)  
Space Culture – Public Engagement in Space through Culture (9)

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REDEFINING THE HUMANITY  
THE IMPERATIVE VALUES OF SPACE SCIENCE AND EXPLORATION IN THE EPOCH OF  
PANDEMICS**Abstract**

One would have more than sufficient evidence to believe and expect that the second and third decades of 21st century would bring us much awaited technological advancements and a couple of ground breaking discoveries, in one word: the Future. Indeed, the predictions, both scientific and fictional were encouraging for the mentioned period. From unprecedented Space colonization to more humane society on Earth, the picture of our World had been envisaged in most uplifting manner setting the bar among the stars. At the other hand, the same joyous predictions came with its grim counterpart, promising a less utopian Future. From global war, invasion from another World to a deadly virus – we stood scared while thinking of the possibility, but soon after we were back to our everyday activities knowing that such a scenario is far from possible, and even if such an event came to life, we were convinced that nothing epochal would ever happen. And so, in early 2020, an Epoch of Pandemics showed us just how much a Future and the humans of the Future can be disappointing. The purpose of this Paper is to draw a parallel between the general human underestimate of Space science and exploration in the age when the Science has once again shown its full and undisputable importance. Further on, the paper will analyze the relation between the general thought on Space exploration and Science from one side and the absolute and vital need for more scientific discoveries and strategies at the other hand.