

33rd IAA SYMPOSIUM ON SPACE AND SOCIETY (E5)
Interactive Presentations - 33rd IAA SYMPOSIUM ON SPACE AND SOCIETY (IP)

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ASTROFEMINISM AND SUSTAINABILITY: THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SPACE AND THE
FUTURE OF OUR PLANET

Abstract

While observing Earth from space many astronauts have described a cognitive shift in awareness often described as the Overview Effect (White, 1987). Their collective descriptions express awe, a recognition of the fragility of the environment and a renewed desire to protect our planet. The ancient universal practice of studying the moon, planets and stars from Earth helped to define primordial calendars and our earliest conception of gods, spirits, seasons and tides. Today, space-based assets inform, educate and connect humanity as well as reveal information that furthers efforts to mitigate anthropogenic climate change. The future of our planet and space are interlocked. The orbits around Earth provide critical satellite infrastructure for communications, networking, imaging, weather monitoring, and navigation. Moreover, it is within the arena of space that humans collaborate, often superseding the geopolitical conflicts on Earth. The number of humans living on the planet have doubled in the last fifty years and satellites reveal that Earth has been significantly altered by human actions. More than a third of the land surface and seventy-five percent of freshwater resources are devoted to livestock production. Deforestation and urbanization have doubled since 1992 (NASA, 2020).

I propose an interactive presentation for the 33rd IAA Symposium on Space and Society. The dynamic presentation will guide the viewer through a journey on the relationship between gender, space and sustainability. Presented as a short film and created to run on a loop, the piece will feature captivating visuals combined with informative graphics. I am the theorist who coined the term and developed the theory of Astrofeminism after six years of research at Harvard University during which time I created six new data sets to address the gendered data gap in the aerospace sector. I hold a Master's degree in International Relations and a Certificate on Sustainability Strategies from The Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). Prior to my academic work I was a Creative Director at Warner Bros. Entertainment Inc., and part of the creative team on the Harry Potter and Lord of the Rings films. I am a Featured Expert at Women's Media Center and a nominated attendee at the Conference of the Parties (COP26). I look forward to creating an interactive presentation which highlights the relationship between space and our quality of life on Earth to engage attendees at the 33rd IAC in Paris 2022.