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INVESTIGATING THE NEUROPSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACT OF THE OVERVIEW EFFECT USING  
VIRTUAL REALITY

**Abstract**

Seeing the Earth from space can have a profound impact on individuals' perspective and understanding of their place in the Universe. This "Overview Effect" has been described by astronauts as a life-changing experience that can lead to a greater sense of unity, appreciation for the earth's fragility, and a desire to take better care of the planet. However, beyond this anecdotal evidence, little is known about the neural basis of these effects or how they translate into changes in psychological well-being or behavioural impact.

This study aims to investigate the neuropsychological impact of seeing the Earth from space, as well as how this experience can be made more accessible using virtual reality as a simulation tool. It is expected that this experience will induce differences in brain function and environmental affinity from a psychological perspective. The neuroimaging data may provide insight into the neural mechanisms underlying the phenomenon and may identify brain regions that are associated with changes in environmental concern.

This research has the potential to shed light on the neuropsychological impact of the Overview Effect and to inform efforts to promote global citizenship and environmental stewardship. The results may also have implications for the design of future space missions, including the use of virtual reality and spaceflight as a means of promoting psychological well-being and sustainable behaviour.