34th IAA SYMPOSIUM ON SPACE AND SOCIETY (E5) Contemporary Arts Practice and Outer Space: A Multi-Disciplinary Approach (3)

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STORIES FROM HOME

Abstract

Stories From Home is a project where Earth shares her stories of recent changes with poetic narratives crafted by artificial intelligence and machine learning based on Earth observation satellite datasets to inspire ecological compassion. We understand the world through stories. In the act of listening, we stimulate our imagination, creativity, and perception, and exercise our empathy to understand the other. Our planetary home, Earth, is undergoing dramatic and unfathomable changes due to the impact of our human activities. These are occurring on physical and temporal scales different from those of human experience and are therefore unintelligible and difficult to sense. We must therefore develop forms of communication that go beyond mere data or statistics. We need to employ languages that can translate scientific measurements to make them more accessible and thus foster a dialogue that allows us to connect intimately with events occurring in the non-human spheres. How can we create meaningful narratives about the changes on Earth in recent decades? What stories would emerge if we gave voice to non-human entities? How could poetry be embedded in algorithmically generated stories? What might we learn from the conversation between a river and a mountain? What are the cries of the wind and the whispers of a burning forest? In this way, Stories From Home will reveal the multiplicity of stories that elude the human eye, connecting individual intimacy to the global flow of change and machine activity.