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SPACE THROUGH SOCIAL AND HUMANITARIAN SCIENCES LENS: SOME ISSUES RELATED TO  
THE DEVELOPMENT OF ASTROSOCIOLOGY IN AZERBAIJAN

**Abstract**

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The article deals with the topic of space exploration by socio-humanitarian sciences, in particular, the formation of an idea of the relationship between society and people, as well as worldviews regarding space. The author explores questions such as, how is space research useful to humanities and social sciences? Or how are sociologists useful to other space explorers? Space activities show very clearly how space affects society. Space exploration has made a significant imprint on culture and society. As the researchers note, there are few moments in history more iconic than the first moon landing. The pivotal moment when a human stepped foot on another world marked the end of one phase of human achievement and the beginning of a new one. Moments like these expanded public perception and changed the course of human history. Thus, the problems of space exploration are studied not only by technical and natural sciences, but also by socio-humanitarian sciences/ The humanities and the social sciences in particular can shape the way we think about our relationship with space. However, some times discussions concerning science and technology convergence ignore the social sciences. Social science views space exploration as a key to our human existence, and how it could affect our society if there is life out there in space. Natural science views space exploration as something that needs to be explored more and needs to have better technology to explore other planets and travel deeper into space. Social sciences and the humanities are essential to understand the full value and impact of space exploration on humankind. The social science lens looks at how humans act in their social environment. While the humanities also studies human action, social sciences more specifically look at our social relations, our relationships and our societies. The article also deals with the issue of conceptualization of the term of "astrosociology" in Azerbaijan. As is known, the complex of socio-humanitarian studies of space exploration activities forms the disciplinary field of astrosociology-social science of space exploration. At present, this term is practically not yet used in the Azerbaijani public and scientific discourse and is absent in the conceptual apparatus of science. However, there is an objective need to adequately take into account astrosociology as a new scientific direction and sociological discipline in the strategies of the national development of astronautics, space education and knowledge.