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COOPERATION AND COMPETITION IN COLLABORATIVE INTERNATIONAL HUMAN SPACE
EXPLORATION VENTURES

Abstract

This article* analyses the dialects of space cooperation and competition, more specifically in regard to Collaborative International Human Space Exploration Ventures. It presents a small-n case study that provides analysis based on the triangulation of qualitative data gathered via document analysis and via semi-structured interviews, and of the concepts of the Constructivism International Relations Theory. The study is based on the analysis of three case studies: the International Space Station (ISS), the Artemis Programme and the International Lunar Research Station (ILRS). Analysis of the case studies shows that whereas the cooperation between the United States of America (US) and Russia in the ISS might be coming to an end, a new phase of both cooperation and competition in the field of Collaborative International Human Space Exploration Ventures is taking place. Whilst the future of the ISS is still uncertain, initiatives such as the Artemis Programme and the ILRS are ushering in a new phase of (1) competition between Space Powers (ILRS and Artemis); and simultaneously of (2) cooperation (a) between Space Powers (ILRS) and (b) between Space Powers (ILRS, and Artemis) and other nation-States. Considering the unfolding developments presented in the case studies, this article concludes outlining the opportunities and challenges of this novel scenario of competition and cooperation, taking into consideration as part of the analysis its implications for the sustainability of outer space activities, especially with reference to the COPUOS Guidelines for Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities. * This article draws on research conducted for the author's University of Oxford MSt in Diplomatic Studies Dissertation.