

IAF SPACE EDUCATION AND OUTREACH SYMPOSIUM (E1)
Space for All: Decolonial Practices in Space (2)

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REFLECTION ON THE CONCEPT OF "HUMANITAS" AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR
DECOLONIALIST PRACTICES IN OUTER SPACE**Abstract**

Post-human interplanetary diplomacy is an intricate domain, compounded by its perceived lack of importance in the contemporary context. However, the enactment of space programs explicitly aimed at creating a permanent human presence in space necessitates a discussion about the future regulatory framework that will guide both the life of space communities and their relationship with the planet Earth. In this sense, it is essential to question the correct direction to follow to avoid a future scenario where the bond between Earth, space settlements, and their resources is fraught with elements attributable to a colonialist mentality and predatory practices.

This paper aims to investigate the concrete plausibility of decolonialist practices in future human expansion into space. The starting point of the research will delve into the distant past of philosophical thought, examining the origin and scope of the concept of *humanitas* and its close bond with planet Earth. This analysis is crucial as the concept of *humanitas* has informed and shaped dominant thought over the centuries, linking the universality of rights with the exclusive benefit of humankind. Building upon this analysis, the paper explores the practical implications of decolonial methodologies in different aspects of human expansion in outer space, including governance structures, resource allocation, and interplanetary diplomacy. Examining the role of international collaboration and multilateral frameworks in advancing decolonial agendas in outer space, the paper also considers the potential for human rights to guide a decolonialist approach to outer space diplomacy in the long term.

In conclusion, the study argues that space expansion will necessarily have a post-human character. Attempts to subject the regulatory framework of extra-atmospheric settlements to the interests not only of states but generally terrestrial would represent an infringement and a colonialist drift. Ultimately, this study aims to contribute to ongoing discussions within the space community about the ethical, legal, and social dimensions of human expansion in outer space.