

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

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WHOM IS ALL?

Abstract

How can the space industry refuse to teach underrepresented communities to know themselves as underrepresented? In the current context where diversity and inclusion are used to further marginalize the already oppressed, "Whom is All?" departs from the premise that feminist cultural approaches to space exploration can renew our understanding of the politics that simultaneously promote and foreclose inclusion and diversity. "Whom is All?" mobilizes *Space Feminisms: People, Planets, Power* (Blomsbury Press, February 2024) as its platform of inquiry to present the pluralistic model that the "s" in space feminisms gives rise to. *Space Feminisms: People, Planets, Power* is an anthology that takes feminism as its primary analytic to cultivate radical and alternative modes of inquiry around outer space; to suggest generative interventions for promissory outer space projects; and to facilitate a collaborative and interdisciplinary platform for scholars, artists, and designers to imagine radical constructions of human futures beyond Earth. The book showcases alternate modes of attachment to space exploration informed by feminist perspectives. Following from the work of feminist scholar Chantal Mouffe who invites us to develop a vibrant democracy based on the creation of agonistic spaces, which she defines as zones of struggle where differences can be confronted, this paper will scrutinize the power of feminist perspectives to generate heterogeneous, careful, and sustainable modes of attachment to space exploration. "Whom is All?" is in dialogue with decolonial approaches without claiming itself decolonial. Decolonization, Indigenous scholars Eve Tuck and K. Wayne Yang warn us, is about "the repatriation of Indigenous land and life" and not a synonym of all social justice projects. Pursuing the objective of doing justice to Indigenous decolonial rights to land and auto-determination, this paper engages with feminism as a mode of inquiry that can work in solidarity with decolonization. With a focus on the power of feminism to posit problems that break the stability of given forms of knowledge inherited from masculine, militaristic, colonialist, capitalist, and ableist values "Whom is All?" seeks to generate what Brazilian pedagogue Paulo Freire referred to as "knowledge of becoming." This paper will present a curated list of feminist messages from the manifestos, essays, interviews, historical materials, and projects included in the book to engage with feminism -an historically underrepresented mode of attachment to space- as a method that provides critical means to understand pluralism, inclusion, and diversity.