

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

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DOPPELGÄNGERS: INTERGENERATIONAL TRAUMA AND DECOLONIAL FUTURES IN SPACE  
EXPLORATION**Abstract**

As the dream of space exploration is increasingly a concern of private corporations with further focus on commercialisation and mining [1], this paper asks: can the experience of the past help us imagine new futures in space? *Doppelgängers*, a film featured at SXSW in 2024, confronts colonization via a recorded creative experiment which took place in the summer 2023. This creative experiment, in the MoonMars Analogue site at Astroland Interplanetary Agency, brought together 3 subjects for 3 days with neuroscientists, space mission specialists, and trauma specialists. This paper examines the link between collective trauma and its influence on epigenetic alterations in shaping future-oriented thought, as demonstrated through this study. Recent research in Neuropsychology suggests that collective trauma has intergenerational mental and psychological effects, implying that diasporas worldwide may experience similar impacts. This work aims to explore creative and innovative approaches to decolonial practices by: i) utilizing neuropsychology and epigenetics as a framework for critical research; ii) addressing the significant obstacles to contemporary space exploration visions; iii) unveiling new avenues for public involvement.

[1] Lewis, J. S. (1997) *Mining the Sky*, ISBN: 0201328194, Basic Books Hirschberger, G. (2018). Collective trauma and the social construction of meaning. *Frontiers in psychology*, 9, 1441. Bowers, M. E., Yehuda, R. (2016). Intergenerational transmission of stress in humans. *Neuropsychopharmacology*, 41(1), 232-244. Conching, A. K. S., Thayer, Z. (2019). Biological pathways for historical trauma to affect health: A conceptual model focusing on epigenetic modifications. *Social Science Medicine*, 230, 74-82. Ogden, P. (2019). Acts of triumph: An interpretation of Pierre Janet and the role of the body in trauma treatment. In *Rediscovering Pierre Janet* (pp. 200-209). Routledge.