

Ethnographies of Outer Space 2025 | Symposium Schedule

Unless otherwise stated, all events take place at Aula am Campus, Hof 1.11, University of Vienna.

Wednesday 24 September	
17:00–19:30	<i>Speculative Foresight Workshop</i> (STS Seminar Room, Floor 6, NIG Universitätsstraße 7, 1010 Wien)
Thursday 25 September	
9:00–9:30	Coffee
9:30–10:00	Welcome by FutureSpace Team
10:00–11:15 <i>“Separate Spheres” and Planetary Care: Gendering the Second Space Age</i> Discussant: Eleanor Armstrong Chair: Philipp Kürten	<i>One (not so) Giant Leap for Womankind”: Care and Feminism in Wild Ride: A Memoir of I.V. Drips and Rocket Ships</i> Laura Cwalina, Heinrich-Heine-University Düsseldorf
	<i>Sentimental Journeys: Astronaut Mothers on the American Screen</i> Alexandra Ganzer, University of Vienna
	<i>“I looked into space and all I saw was death”: The Male Gaze and Virgin Space in William Shatner’s Boldly Go</i> Jens Temmen, Catholic University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt
11:15–11:30	Break
11:30–12:30 Discussant: Victor Buchli Chair: Hannah Schmalstich and Pepijn Deroo	<i>FutureSpace Team Presentation</i> Nina Klimburg-Witjes, Joseph Popper, & Philipp Kürten, University of Vienna
12:30–13:30	Lunch and Poster Session
13:30–14:45 <i>Infrastructural Relations</i> Discussant: Nina Klimburg-Witjes Chair: Joseph Popper	<i>A New North?: Andøya Municipality and the Attempt to Position Norway as a Leading Arctic Satellite Launch Site</i> John-Andrew McNeish, Norwegian University of Life Sciences
	<i>Las Antenas: Satellite Communications, Radio Astronomy and Access to Outer Space in Tulancingo</i> Anne Johnson, Ibero-American University
	<i>Polar frontiers, polar orbits: The vertiginous rise of Arctic commercial spaceports</i> Mia Bennett, University of Washington
14:45–15:00	Break

15:00–16:15 <i>Space and Power</i>	<i>Reclaiming the night sky - Indigenous rights and responsibility in the governance of outer space</i> Hristina Talkova, University of Vienna
Discussant: Xiao-Shan Yap	<i>Power would be where oxygen is</i> Aaron Parkhurst, University College London
Chair: Philipp Kürten	<i>Interlacing Space Education: tentacular approaches to sponsorship in space science</i> Eleanor S. Armstrong, University of Leicester
16:15–16:30	Break
16:30–17:30 <i>Just Space?</i>	<i>Techno-Optimism, Extractivism and Outer Space: Socio-Political Imaginaries in Asteroid Mining Regimes</i> Raoul Leipertz, LUMSA University
Discussant: Brad Tabas	<i>SpaceX and Breaking Things in the Rio Grande Valley: A Call for Refusal</i> Reka Gal, Technical University of Munich & Juan B. Mancias, Carrizo Comecrudo Tribe
Chair: Nina Klimburg-Witjes	
17:30 – 19:30	<i>Drinks reception</i> (Palm Beach, Thurngasse 19, 1090 Wien) and dinner (optional / self-paid) at Gasthaus Rebhuhn

Friday 26 September	
9:00–9:30	Coffee
9:30–11:00 <i>Aesthetics and Materialities</i>	<i>The Hyperrealistic World of Starbase</i> Anna Szolucha, Jagiellonian University Krakow
Discussant: Paloma Puente-Lozano	<i>Imagination and Imaginaries. Science Fiction as Field Site for Ethnographies of Outer Space</i> Veronika Nowak, University of Vienna
Chair: Pepijn Deroo	<i>Infrastructures of Enthusiasm: Making a radically different future to keep everything the same</i> David Jeevendrampillai, University of Manchester
	<i>Ephemeral imaginaries at commercial space conferences and trade fairs in Europe</i> Peggy Reeder, Heidelberg University
11:00–11:15	Break
11:15–12:45 <i>Artistic Interventions</i>	<i>Extraterrestrial Theatre</i> Felipe Cervera, University of California Los Angeles
Discussant: Joseph Popper	<i>Curating Cosmic Relations: An Imaginary Exhibition of Space Exploration in Thailand</i> Lauren Reid, Leuphana University Lüneburg

Chair: Hannah Schmalstisch	<i>Crafting the Otherwise: Epistemic Artefacts and the Ontological Rendering</i> Sitraka Rakotoniaina, University of the Arts London
	<i>Meteorite trade shows and other plots of Space Mining: Storying the Un-Earthing of Resources, on and off Earth</i> Ralo Mayer, University of Applied Arts Vienna
12:45–14:00	Lunch and Poster Session
14:00–15:30 <i>Extra-terrestrial Perspectives</i> Discussant: Aaron Parkhurst Chair: Joseph Popper	<i>No Longer Earthlings</i> Michael Murphy, University of Oxford
	<i>Interventions on Earth through off-Earth connectivity</i> Hanna Nieber, Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology
	<i>Training instructors and producing empiricism in European human spaceflight</i> Giles Bunch, University College London
	<i>How do Meteorites Speak? Everyday Economies of Astro-Value across Mineral Markets, Extractable Rents and Alien Gifts</i> Anton Nikolotov, Collège de France
15:30–15:45	Break
15:45–17:15 <i>Futures and strategies</i> Discussant: Philipp Kürten Chair: Nina Klimburg-Witjes	<i>Chinese "aerospace dream" and resonant planetary imaginaries</i> Paloma Puente-Lozano, University Carlos III of Madrid
	<i>Examining Possible Future Trajectories of Global Space Sectors</i> Ronda Geise, University of Auckland
	<i>Breaking Captured Futures: The Imaginary of Earth-Space System(s)</i> Xiao-Shan Yap & Jeroen Oomen, University of Utrecht
	<i>10 Years of "Going Native"?: Engineering Future(s) in Deep Space</i> Matjaz Vidmar, University of Edinburgh