Events

Ethics, Policy & Humanity's Future in Space

Thursday, May 29, 2025
4:00-5:30pm
HUB 214

Humankind has already established a firm and growing presence outside the boundaries of planet Earth. Moreover, it is likely that major actors are currently creating path dependencies that will determine the conditions of a long-term future, often unknowingly and unintentionally. The following decades will presumably set a space future, but what kind of future is still up for grabs? What can it be like and what should it be like are both questions that need addressing urgently, because decisions made over the next few decades are likely to affect the lives and futures of many generations to come. This roundtable brings together scholars and practitioners from ethics, policy, and industry to discuss humanity's future in space from the perspective of intergenerational ethics and justice.

Moderated by :
Mikko Puumala (University of Turku) researches space settlement ethics and environmental protection in outer space.

Co-sponsored by Program on Ethics and the Department of Philosophy.

Accommodation requests related to a disability or health condition should be made by May 19, 2025 to the Simpson Center, 206.543.3920, schadmin@uw.edu.

Stephen Gardiner (University of Washington) researches global environmental problems, future generations and virtue ethics.

Chelsea Haramia (Spring Hill College and University of Bonn) serves on the SETI Institute's Science Advisory Board, as a working group Chair for the UK SETI Research Network's Post-Detection Hub, and as co-editor of the journal *1000-Word Philosophy*.

Marion Hourdequin (Colorado College) researches climate ethics, intergenerational ethics, and relational approaches to environmental ethics.

Saadia M. Pekkanen (University of Washington) is founding director of the Program on Strategy, Policy, and Diplomacy Research, the Space Law, Data and Policy Program, and the Space Policy and Research Center.

Erika Wagner is an interdisciplinary technical business leader with more than 15 years in commercial space, now leading US business development for The Exploration Company.

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