

## Call for Abstracts

### 2024 Earth-Space Symposium on ‘Sustainability, Governance, Futures’

Utrecht, The Netherlands | 12-13 November 2024

Earth and space are increasingly coupled in terms of their sustainability challenges, governance issues, and future-making. Approaching ‘outer space’ as a separate entity from Earth is no longer sufficient to address our planetary crises. From the rising number of satellites to missions on the Moon and beyond, the global society is confronted with environmental, economic, social, and political challenges beyond single planetary scales. To this end, treating Earth and space as integrative ‘Earth-Space systems’ offers the potential to address challenges in this era. The 2024 Earth-Space Symposium, to be held 12-13 November 2024 in Utrecht, the Netherlands, provides a much-needed forum to gather theoretical consideration, identify gaps and synergies, and exchange ideas to chart a new line of science and policy inquiry on our changing Earth-Space systems. The Symposium will bridge the currently separated fields to derive an overview of the state-of-the-art problems, approaches, and their points of interconnection to derive an integrative Earth-Space agenda addressing sustainability, governance, and future-making. We welcome contributions from diverse disciplines and knowledge backgrounds, covering a broad range of topics, methods, cases, and empirical work. We furthermore encourage transdisciplinary exchange and participation by non-academic practitioners.

#### **CALL FOR “RESEARCH PAPERS”, “SPECIAL SESSIONS”, and “CREATIVE CONTRIBUTIONS”**

The 2024 Earth-Space Symposium welcomes three types of contributions, i.e. Research Papers, Special Sessions, and Creative Contributions that fit into one (or more) of the symposium tracks. Research Papers are traditional academic research contributions; they may offer new theoretical insights and frameworks, new empirical research findings, or broader systematic reviews of the literature. Special Sessions can be in the form of panels, roundtables, or mini-workshops to discuss specific issues or explore policy ideas. In addition, we welcome creative contributions such as short films, music, or art.

## **Symposium tracks:**

### **1) Rules, Organizations, and Institutions**

Research gaps and challenges in existing space law, governance, and institutions; the connections between space governance and other planetary governance, e.g. earth system law, earth system governance, and global governance; what sort of reforms or transformation would be needed?

### **2) Environmental and Resource Management in Space**

Concepts to be considered for better environmental and resource management in Earth's orbit or other celestial bodies; burden and benefit sharing; resource access and distribution; global commons approaches; implications on Earth and in space.

### **3) History, Culture, and Indigenous Knowledge of Space**

In what ways can we learn from the history, culture, and Indigenous knowledge of space when confronting challenges arising from space activities; what are the impacts of space activities on the history and culture of space as well as on Indigenous people?

### **4) Ethical and Philosophical Perspectives**

Which ethical and philosophical perspectives to consider for space governance; what are their relations with Earth sustainability; in what ways does space development require a revisit of the existing ethical and philosophical perspectives?

### **5) Power Dynamics in Space**

How do geo- or astropolitics in space unfold and what are their impact on space activities; what are their connections with terrestrial politics and vice versa; who gets to shape space activities, at whose expense, and who to be empowered; which societies are the most vulnerable to the consequences of space activities?

### **6) Space in Future-Making**

How do space activities shape and alter the futures of the earth systems, planetary and Earth sustainability, the social dimension, and more? What sort of discourses, politics, and imaginaries mobilized; what are the future implications including intergenerational equity; what could be the solutions for these challenges in the near- and long term?

## **EXPECTED OUTPUTS**

All accepted contributions to the Symposium will inform, and be acknowledged in, the co-formulation of an integrative Earth-Space agenda. A selection of the presented papers will be invited to submit for publication, either as a journal special issue or an edited volume at the Earth System Governance Cambridge University Press Book Series.

## **ABSTRACT SUBMISSION**

To submit an abstract for a Research Paper, Special Session, and/or Creative Contribution, please send the title, keywords and an abstract of less than 300 words in the body of an e-mail to [earth-space2024@uu.nl](mailto:earth-space2024@uu.nl). Please include your name and complete institutional affiliation. In the e-mail subject line, state to which of the six Symposium tracks listed above your submission relates best. If you are an early-career researcher, please also indicate whether you would like to apply for your registration fee to be waived (we have 10 spots available). You will receive a notification of submission.

The schedule including deadlines and registration process can be found below.  
Abstract submissions close on **5 July 2024**.  
For questions, please get in touch: [earth-space2024@uu.nl](mailto:earth-space2024@uu.nl)

## **ORGANIZING COMMITTEE**

Xiao-Shan Yap, Utrecht University (Conference Chair)

Based on alphabetical order of last names

Frank Biermann, Utrecht University

Alice Gorman, Flinders University

Marco Janssen, Arizona State University

Rakhyun E. Kim, Utrecht University

Tanja Masson-Zwaan, Leiden University

Jean-Frederic Morin, Laval University

Florian Rabitz, Kaunas University of Technology

## **IMPORTANT DATES**

Abstract Submission Open

24 May

Abstract Submission Deadline

05 July

Abstract Acceptance Notification

15 July

Registration Open

16 July

Registration Deadline

16 August

Late Registration Begins (Additional Costs Applied)

17 August

Earth-Space Symposium 2024

12 – 13 November

Working Group on Earth-Space Governance (Annual Meeting)

13 November

## **REGISTRATION FEE**

Participants Regular Fee

€200.00

Participants (Early-Career Researchers)\*

€100.00

Participants from Global South\*\*

€0 (waived)

Participants Late Registration Fee

€250.00

\* Early-career researchers are Master's students (or those who recently obtained their Master's degree), PhD students, and postdocs. We have 10 spots available for early-career researchers who wish to waive their registration fees. Please indicate whether you would like to apply for your registration fee to be waived during the abstract submission. Selection will be based on the quality of the abstract.

\*\*Participants affiliated with an institution from a country in the Global South. The country where the participant works determines eligibility for fee waivers.

For the registration tickets, all the prices are listed in Euro. Registration includes access to the venue, coffee, tea and snacks throughout the symposium, lunch on the two symposium days, and a welcome reception at the end of the first day. Dinners, travel, and accommodation are not covered by the fee and need to be arranged by participants.

## VENUE



*Academiegebouw* - the Academy Building of Utrecht University, The Netherlands. Two rooms have been reserved for up to 60 pax.

## HOST AND CO-HOSTING INSTITUTIONS

Copernicus Institute of Sustainable Development, Utrecht University

European Research Council, Starting Grant for the PLANETSTEWARDS Project

Earth System Governance Project, Working Group on Earth-Space Governance