



Dear ARI Members, Supporters, and Followers,

ARI is pleased to announce an open call for our next issue of ***Astrosociological Insights***, the only newsletter dedicated to astrosociological topics. The theme of the next newsletter will be *astrosociological research into the issues associated with private human spaceflight*.

Call for Articles

Overview: Astrosociology examines *astrosocial phenomena*, defined as the social, cultural, and behavioral patterns related to outer space, which includes the efforts of humans as they research, engage in, and are affected by space-related activities. Understanding this *human dimension* of outer space is critical to our long-term success as we strive to develop human spacefaring societies. As Virgin Galactic plans to launch its first space tourism flights and Mars One seeks to train “private astronauts” for one-way trips to Mars, sponsors of missions need to anticipate how a diverse group of private individuals will interact with each other in isolated ecosystems and the larger space environment.

This upcoming issue of *Astrosociological Insights*, which will spotlight how the methodologies, insights, and collaborative nature of astrosociological research, reveals and informs the emerging entrepreneurial development of private human spaceflight.

Prompting Questions:

- 1) What motivates individuals to apply to become private astronauts? Do these motives differ from those of "traditional" astronauts?
- 2) What unique challenges face private individuals on short and long-

term spaceflights? How is traditional astronaut training being adapted to address these challenges?

3) How effectively do analog simulations incorporate patterns of human behavior that can facilitate, hinder, or otherwise impact, mission success.

4) What pressures will one-way or long-term space travel put on private astronauts? How will they sustain their relationships with those back on Earth?

5) What are the challenges in forming and managing collaborative relationships between public and private entities to foster private human spaceflight?

6) How do global political and cultural differences influence mission design, selection and training of private astronauts, and funding?

7) How do broader social and cultural issues such as income inequality, ethnic differences, religious diversity, and gender relationships impact the success of private human spaceflight?

Submissions: This open call for submissions should incorporate and address at least one of the questions posed above. We welcome and encourage contributions from both public and private stakeholders, researchers, practitioners, developers, and scholars in aerospace, science, social science, and the humanities.

Please send only original contributions to Kathleen Toerpe at ktoerpe@astrosociology.org by Sunday, March 2, 2014.

- Shorter pieces should be between 300 and 600 words.
- Longer contributions should not exceed 1000 words.
- All submissions must be in MS Word format.
- All editorial decisions are final and any submission not included may be considered for the next issue.

Read back issues of our newsletter on our Virtual Library page at <http://astrosociology.org/vlibrary.html>. Look for the link titled “**Issues of Astrosociological Insights Newsletter**.” If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us. ARI is also on Twitter at @astrosociology.

We thank you for your continuing interest in astrosociology and for exploring with us the human dimension of outer space.

Sincerely,

Kathleen D. Toerpe
Editor
Astrosociological Insights