

The Astrosociology Research Institute (ARI) Celebrates Its Tenth Anniversary

Jim Pass, Ph.D.
CEO, Astrosociology Research Institute

Early challenges made the development of astrosociology as an academic field more difficult than the road to success enjoyed by those developing astrobiology. In fact, in 2004, some critics argued that “astrosociology” was merely a short-lived meme. While early critics argued that existing social science and humanities disciplines could handle what are now regarded as astrosociological topics and subfields (i.e., the study of *astrosocial phenomena* – or the study of social, cultural, and behavioral patterns related to outer space), they have failed to do so since then. Thus, despite the early hardships, the momentum moved onward toward increasing success.¹ In May 2008, ARI was founded. In 2018, the tenth anniversary year of ARI’s existence emphasizes an increased emphasis on broadening education and research efforts regarding multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary issues that involve (1) convergence among the social sciences, humanities, and the arts, as well as collaboration between the two branches of science (i.e., the social sciences and STEM disciplines) with regard to space issues and (2) increasing participation in astrosociology scholarship that involves getting more people (especially students) participating and building an astrosociological community and literature. This presentation will focus on these issues and matters related to celebrating ARI’s anniversary before an ISDC audience that supports the idea that the social sciences, humanities, and the arts are necessary contributors to the success of human spaceflight, exploration, and eventual settlement; especially as the twenty-first century unfolds.

¹ Note: Dr. Albert A. Harrison was a critical advocate who provided legitimacy to the new field of astrosociology in 2005 and the first person to join ARI’s Board of Advisors. Here is the link to the AIAA paper that grew out Dr. Pass’ presentation at Contact in 2016:

<http://www.astrosociology.org/Library/PDF/Space2016-JPass-AlbertAHarrison.pdf>