

# Call for Chapter Abstracts ↗

**Social dimensions of space exploration:  
Lessons from the past, paths to the future**

## Objectives of the Book

This volume addresses a notable gap in existing literature by offering a comprehensive, Europe-centric examination of the societal implications of space exploration focusing on the social, political, ethical, cultural, and economic dimensions of humanity's activities in space.

It explores critical questions such as:

- How does space exploration shape global politics and law?
- What ethical responsibilities arise as humanity expands into space?
- In what ways can space technologies support sustainability on Earth?
- What psychological and social challenges accompany space travel

The volume places particular emphasis on three key aspects:

- ▶▶ The sociotechnical dynamics of space development, highlighting the interaction between technological systems and social structures.
- ▶▶ A distinctly European and international perspective.
- ▶▶ The inclusion of case studies, additional literature, biographical insights, and concise thematic sections ("nuggets") to enrich accessibility and engagement.

# Why Publish in this Book?



## Bridging gaps

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It offers an interdisciplinary and international view, integrating humanities, social sciences, and space sciences.



## Broad relevance

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Appropriate for students, educators, policymakers, industry professionals, and researchers.



## Fostering collaboration

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Contributions from diverse European and global experts will ensure a rich, inclusive perspective.



## Supporting education and policy

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The book will serve as a key resource for academic programs and policy discussions.

# Content and Organization

The volume is organized into three main parts, each focusing on a distinct dimension of the social aspects of space exploration.

We encourage contributors to engage with the following clusters of themes and keywords, which reflect the scope and orientation of each section.



## Part I: Old Space – Lessons and Legacies

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This section invites contributions exploring the historical foundations and early social imaginaries of space activities. Relevant keywords include:

- history of spaceflight,
- Cold War space politics,
- space law,
- international cooperation,
- public discourse, media representations, and cultural narratives,
- early institutions and industry,
- science diplomacy,
- popular engagement with space,
- Europe's role in early space history



## Part II: New Space – New Stakes

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This part focuses on the rapidly evolving contemporary landscape, where commercial, ethical, and geopolitical stakes are intensifying. Suggested keywords include:

- space economy and privatization,
- new space actors,
- governance and sovereignty,
- space ethics and environmental sustainability,
- philosophy of technology,
- equity and inclusion in space,
- planetary protection,
- off-Earth settlements,
- AI and automation in space,
- risk and regulation

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## Part III: Space Futures

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The final part looks ahead to future developments and their anticipated societal impact. Relevant themes include:

- space infrastructure,
- long-duration missions,
- psychosocial challenges,
- skills and education,
- Cybersecurity and data governance,
- cultural production,
- space-inspired art and performance,
- future imaginaries,
- human-Earth relations,
- interplanetary futures,
- public engagement and outreach

# Submission Guidelines

Chapters proposals should be submitted using this [form](#) by **10th October 2025**

- Length: maximum of 4,000 characters (including spaces) without references.
- Content: brief summary, outline, main references, keywords, a short biography of the author(s)
- Focus: must relate to one of the thematic parts listed above and emphasize a European or international perspective
- It is still possible to propose a topic which is not currently contained in the call but the proposed chapter must then fit with the general call and clearly enter in one of the 3 parts proposed in the call

## Chapter Requirements

Deadline: **10th April 2026**

Length: 7,000 - 8,000 words including references

Content: chapter outline will be provided for prospective authors

## Estimated Timeline

- Call for abstract opens: 1 August 2025
- Call for abstract deadline: 10 October 2025
- Notification to authors: 10 November 2025
- Full chapters due: 30 April 2026
- Peer review 1st round notifications: 30 June 2026
- Revision: 31 August 2026
- Final revision and acceptance notice: 30 October 2026
- Manuscript preparation by the publisher: 30 February 2027
- Estimated publication of the book: March 2027

# Publication Details

Publisher: Springer Nature, Space and Society Series  
Style: APA 7th edition, British/International English

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