Panel Proposal for SESA 2024

Panel Title: Virtues and Frameworks for Space Ethics

Chair Name: Tony Milligan (King s College London).

Discussant Names:

Nikki Coleman (Australian Centre for Space Governance)

Sara Langston (Sara Langston (Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University)

Koji Tachibana (University of Chiba)

Panel Abstract: A rounded conception of space ethics will have to take account of both the institutional and the more personal character dimensions of human agency in space. This panel will bring these institutional and personal dimensions of space agency together by looking at the contrasting role of ethical frameworks and the virtues as shapers of action. Of the two kinds of consideration, virtues for space is the more neglected. Partly as a result of the perception that it is less able to guide action in stable and predictable ways than principles. Yet principles alone will be ineffective if agents lack the character to act with practical wisdom, courage and (if Jacques Arnold s treatment of virtues for space is correct) confidence. And accounts of the virtues, on their own, will do little to tell us what institutional principles and ethical goals should be facilitated by virtuous agency. The panel will seek to balance this with two presentations from theorists of institutional ethical considerations, and two from virtue theorists.

Indication of Paper Status: all participants will deliver papers.

Individual Papers:

1. Tony Milligan "The Next Stuff: What are the Cardinal Virtues for Space?"

2. Nikki Coleman "Creating the International Space Ethics Framework"

3. Sara Langston "Ethical considerations for governing private actors in space"

4. Koji Tachibana "Space Exploration and Virtue Ethics: The Value of Nature and the Virtue of Humanity"