The Space Adventure

Call for proposals for an issue of the journal

Sociétés & Représentations

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The journal Sociétés et Représentations will devote one of its next issues (2023/1) to the space adventure from modern times to the present day. This must be understood in different ways. On the one hand, considering how the men and the women went from the discovery to the conquest of this "new frontier", visual conquest at first, via by instruments of observation, then real conquest with spacecrafts, up to the space tourism which begins under our eyes and the imagery of the exomondes in full expansion. At the same time, examining the way in which they dreamed, imagined, represented the space surrounding planet Earth and imagined cosmic territories with an abundant set of cultural productions constitutive of a space culture in some respects far prior to the conquest, or anticipating the future.

Our goal is to be resolutely international and interdisciplinary. We wish to gather contributions from various disciplinary and geographical horizons to gather a variety of specialist viewpoints on this insatiable curiosity of the human spirit which leads us to unceasingly push back the limits of the known and visible world. Cultural historians, historians of arts and sciences, but also geographers, anthropologists, experts in international relations are welcome, as well as specialists in astronomy and astrophysics insofar as they propose reflective articles on the practices and representations associated with this space adventure.

Potential themes are multiple: space in works of science fiction, whether in literature, cinema, or comics, popular astronomy, gender and space conquest, space and the Cold War, space diplomacy, and so on. We will value a variety of perspectives associating the history of social imaginary, cultural history and the history of techniques and spatial knowledge, allowing for example to examine in depth some crucial moments of the space adventure such as the first space travels, objects as rockets, sputniks, stations or flying saucers or actors, either real or imaginary. Contributions that take into account the visual history of the space adventure will be particularly appreciated (illustrations welcomed).

Submission of proposals :

Proposals for articles should not exceed one page. In addition to a tentative title and topic, they should include a presentation of the author, a short bibliography and a presentation of the sources considered. They must reach the directors of the dossier before April 4, 2022. After approval, a first draft of the article will be expected by December 1, 2022. Proposals may be made in English or French. Articles may also be written in both languages. Articles of up to 30,000 characters will be submitted to the editorial board and two independent experts for review.

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