

By offering us new access to remote worlds in our own solar system, the telescope radically shifted our view of our cosmos and ourselves in the 17th century. Now the new James Webb Space telescope will vastly expand our understanding of our universe's beginnings - and end. Its launch in December 2021 provides a focal point for critical reflections on the traditions and implications of cosmic viewing.

Taking the long view on the telescopic tradition itself, we wish to probe, from interdisciplinary perspectives, the political and philosophical dimensions of cosmic viewing, and how the act and its instruments have shaped scientific, philosophical and artistic imaginaries across time. We are particularly interested to explore how telescopic - including telescopic desires before the invention of the telescope itself - brings the worlds of Sciences and the Humanities into closer contact, bridging interdisciplinary space as well as cosmic.

This one-day colloquium/sandbox will bring invited scholars together to share short, experimental presentations and to brainstorm ideas for a grant application to fund an ambitious interdisciplinary STEM/Humanities research-project built around the James Webb Space telescope and traditions of *teleskopia*.



Teleskopia: the cosmic view across Science and Humanities

April 22, 2022

9:30 AM - 5:30 PM

Location: CafCon, Steven Muller Bldg -
3700 San Martin Dr. (Space Telescope
Bldg. Homewood Campus)

Schedule

9:30 AM Convene: welcome and coffee

Session 1: 10:00-11:15 AM

Karen ní Mheallaigh (Classics, JHU)
'Telescopy before the telescope.'

Rob Rynasiewicz (History and Philosophy of Science, JHU)
'Early Modern Landmarks in Observational Cosmology. The cases of Tycho & Galileo.'

Marc Kamionkowski (Physics and Astronomy, JHU)
'New Eyes, New Skies'

30 mins discussion

Coffee Break 11:15-11:30 AM

Session 2: 11:30-12:45 PM

Speaker to be confirmed
title to be confirmed

Elizabeth Kessler (American Studies, Stanford)
'Waiting to See: Telescopes and the Anticipated View.'

Marcelo Gleiser (Physics and Astronomy, Dartmouth)
'Aliens'

30 mins discussion

Lunch 1:00-2:00 PM

Session 3: 2:30-3:45 PM

Frédéric Neyrat (Philosophy and Planetary Humanities, Wisconsin-Madison)
'The planetary experience: how technology can shape a cosmological consciousness of the Earth.'

William Egginton (Modern Languages, JHU)
'Contained by its Center: Cosmological Considerations from Dante to Einstein.'

Brian Greene (Physics, Columbia)
'The Lure of Eternity'

30 mins discussion

Coffee Break 3:45-4:15 PM

Sandbox: 4:15-5:30 PM

15-30 mins: Cosmic Visions project presentation
45 mins Discussion/ plans/ next steps

Wine reception: 5:30 PM