

# Short Manifestos by Deputy Candidates for SPAN Space and Society Working Group meeting (SSSWG)

**To:** SPAN Space and Society Working Group meeting (SSSWG)

**Actions:** Please find below the manifestos for the Lead and Deputy roles for the SPAN Space and Society Working Group.

Once you have read the manifestos, please go to the link to cast one vote for Lead and one vote for Deputy.

If at the end of the first round we don't get majority for a single candidate, we will vote again in another round

Voting for the first round is open until Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December at 5pm.

Name	Manifesto
<p><b>Thomas Cheney</b>  Leader or Deputy position</p>	<p>I am an excellent candidate for either the position of Leader or Deputy Leader of this working group.</p> <p>I have a decade of experience as an academic in the fields of space and society and broader space policy communities in the UK and overseas. My work has been firmly rooted in bridging space, science, and societal issue areas.</p> <p>I am currently an Assistant Professor of Space Law and Policy at Northumbria University, and was previously lecturer in Space Governance within the astrobiology research group at the Open University, where I was head of the Space Governance workstream, which involved among other things contributing to the updating of the COSPAR Planetary Protection Policy.</p> <p>Before taking up an academic post, I was co-lead of the Space Law and Policy Project Group of the Space Generation Advisory Council (SGAC), which involved representing SGAC at the UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. Over the last few years, I have participated in projects including the Royal Society, NASA's Office of Technology, Policy, and Strategy, the Open Lunar Foundation and the Hague International Space Resources Governance Working Group. I have the experience and the passion to lead this working group and our endeavours.</p>
<p><b>Carly Beckerman</b>  Leader or Deputy position</p>	<p>As humanity extends its reach into space, we stand at a pivotal juncture where the principles guiding our development will shape our extraterrestrial futures and our existence on Earth. I am committed to leading the SPAN Space and Society Working Group with a vision rooted in interdisciplinarity and sustainable development. Together, we can pioneer a framework for space activities that honours ethical responsibility, scientific innovation and human ingenuity.</p> <p>Interdisciplinary collaboration is the cornerstone of my approach. By uniting STEM and social scientists, we will foster diverse perspectives to tackle the complex challenges of space exploration. This collaborative ethos ensures that our work is technologically advanced while being culturally inclusive and ethically viable.</p> <p>Sustainability in space is non-negotiable. From minimising orbital debris to ensuring equitable access to space resources, our group will champion</p>

	<p>practices that protect the celestial environment and promote long-term benefits for all of humanity. By integrating sustainability into every stage of space development, we affirm our responsibility to future generations.</p> <p>As the group lead or deputy, I would work to cultivate an inclusive and dynamic environment where bold ideas can thrive, ensuring our work influences policy and inspires action.</p>
<p><b>Alessandra Marino</b> Deputy position</p>	<p>I am Senior Lecturer in Geography and Environmental Studies and I am a member of AstrobiologyOU, an interdisciplinary research group based at The Open University.</p> <p>I have conducted and published research mainly in two areas: 1) the ethics and politics of using space technology on Earth in the context of development; 2) the ethics of space research. In relation to the first area, I co-led two UK Space Agency-funded projects that were conducted collaboratively with Indigenous researchers in the Amazon, in which satellite data were used for environmental monitoring and prioritising community needs. In relation to the latter, I have worked with astrobiologists from different continents to change perceptions and practices of ethical space research. I am passionate about the impact of space research on society and I believe that more interdisciplinary collaborations can only benefit the space sector, as these may raise critical questions for example about the use of specific technologies and their environmental impact. I am an interdisciplinary researcher and I enjoy working in teams. I would love to work with other SPAN colleagues to raise the profile of social sciences and humanities research related to space and to enhance the visibility of all policy-relevant work that is being conducted within the community.</p>