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Book Review: Humans in Outer Space-Interdisciplinary Odysseys, Studies in Space Policy, 1

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Humans in outer space--interdisciplinary odysseys, Studies in space policy, 1



[ed.] by Luca Codignola and Kai-Uwe Schrogl with Agnieszka Lukaszczyk and Nicolas Peter SpringerNewYork, 2009

246p, 9783211874646 \$159.00

LC Call Number: [TL873](#)

This is one of the most unusual books ever written on the exploration of space. It is the outcome of a 2007 workshop in Vienna that brought together some of Europe's leading experts to examine the artistic, political, ethical, social, legal, historical, and religious aspects of humans in space. The result is a mélange of nontechnical papers on these and related topics. Some are rather esoteric. Others are quite insightful, probing novel aspects of humankind's emergence as a space-faring species. What drives humans to explore space? How have countries been misconceiving or misrepresenting their motives? Are humans really better than robots in space? Can humans and machines learn to work together? How has space exploration influenced the humanities (and vice versa)? What do history and theology say about the consequences of discovering life outside the Earth? What might be the "rules of engagement" for communicating with extraterrestrials? How should humans shape the next 50 years of space exploration? Readers will not find definitive answers to any of these questions here, but they will probably view the space program a little differently after reading this book.

Summing Up: Recommended. All collections.

Reviewer: [T. D. Oswalt](#), Florida Institute of Technology

Recommendation: Recommended

Readership Level: All Readership Levels, General Readers, Lower-division Undergraduates, Upper-division Undergraduates, Graduate Students, Researchers/Faculty, Two-Year Technical Program Students, Professionals/Practitioners

Interdisciplinary Subjects:

Subject: [Science & Technology - Astronautics & Astronomy](#)