IMAGINING OUTER SPACE, 1900-2000
An International Conference

February 6-9, 2008
Organization: Alexander C.T. Geppert

– Program –

Wednesday, February 6, 2008

15.00 Welcome Reception and Opening Remarks
Ipke Wachsmuth and Alexander C.T. Geppert

16.00 Introduction
Alexander C.T. Geppert
European Astrofuturism, Cosmic Provincialism. Historical Problems and Historiographical Perspectives

16.30 Keynote Lecture
Steven J. Dick
Space, Time and Aliens. The Role of Imagination in Outer Space

17.30 Coffee

18.00 Feature Presentation I
Philip Pocock
SpacePlace. Art in the Age of Orbitization

20.00 Dinner Downtown
Thursday, February 7, 2008

09.00  Panel I: Theorizing Outer Space
Chair: De Witt Douglas Kilgore
Debbora Battaglia
Galaxies of E.T. Discourse. An Anthropologist's First Contact with the Science of Weird Life
Thomas Brandstetter
Imagining Inorganic Life. Crystalline Aliens in Science and Fiction
Benjamin Lazier
The Globalization of the World-Picture. Towards a History of Earth and Artifact in Twentieth-Century Thought

11.00  Coffee

11.15  Panel II: Personalizing Outer Space
Chair: Bernd Weisbrod
Christina Wessely
Cosmic Spectacular. Rocketry, Weltanschauung and the Quest for Cosmic Ice in Weimar Germany
Thore Bjørnvig
Transcendence of Gravity. Arthur C. Clarke and the Apocalyptic of Weightlessness

13.00  Lunch

14.00  Panel III: Localizing Outer Space
Chair: Andreas W. Daum
Kerrie Anne Dougherty
Spaceport Woomera
Sven Mesinovic
Inner Space and Outer Space. Similarities, Differences and Connections

16.00  Coffee

16.15  Panel IV: Screening Outer Space
Chair: Peter Becker
Burghard Ciesla
Outer Space, Inner Fear. Cold War SF-Films in East and West
Henry Keazor
A Stumble in the Dark. Gerry Anderson’s Space 1999
Werner Suppanz
Nazis in Space. Distant Worlds as Projection Screen of Cultural Memory

18.00  Feature Presentation II
Screening of Historical Films

18.30  Dinner at ZiF
**Friday, February 8, 2008**

**09.00** Panel V: Fictionalizing Outer Space  
Chair: Angela Schwarz  
Claudia Schmölders  
*Unwriting Heaven. Tunguska Region, June 30, 1908*  
Steffen Krämer  
*Ancient Heroes and Early Christian Ascetics. Archetypes of Modern Science Fiction*  
Rainer Eisfeld  
*Projecting Landscapes of the Human Mind on Another World. Changing Features of an Imaginary Mars*

**11.00** Coffee

**11.15** Panel VI: Visioning Outer Space  
Chair: Alexander C.T. Geppert  
Pierre Lagrange  
*A ‘Symmetrical’ Explanation for Flying Saucers*  
James I. Miller  
*Encountering Aliens in the French Countryside. UFOs and the Fabrication of a New World in Quarouble, France, 1954*

**13.00** Lunch

**14.00** Panel VII: Politicizing Outer Space  
Chair: Kai-Uwe Schrogl  
Monica Rüthers  
*Outer Space, Children’s Material Culture and Soviet Imagery after Sputnik*  
Michael J. Neufeld  
*Smash the Myth of the Fascist Rocket Baron. East German Attacks on Wernher von Braun in the 1960s*

**16.00** Coffee

**16.15** Panel VIII: Communicating Outer Space  
Chair: Ralf Bülow  
Guillaume de Syon  
*Between the Bubble and the Moon. Visions of Space Travel in Francophone Comic Strips*  
Bernd Mütter  
*Per Media Ad Astra? Outer Space in West Germany’s Media 1957-1987*

**20.00** Dinner Downtown
Saturday, February 9, 2008

09.00  Panel IX:  Automatizing Outer Space
        Chair:  Paul Ceruzzi
        James Schwoch
        "Short, Nasty, and Brutish. The Curious Life of Telstar, 10 July 1962 - 21 February 1963"
        Gonzalo Munevar
        "Self-Reproducing Automata and the Impossibility of SETI"

11.00  Coffee

11.15  Panel X:  Designing Outer Space
        Chair:  Peter Davidson
        William R. Macauley
        "Inscribing Scientific Knowledge. Interstellar Communication, Universal Laws and Contact with Cultures of the Imagination"
        Tristan Weddigen
        "Alien Spotting. Damien Hirst’s Beagle 2 Mars Lander Calibration Target and the Exploitation of Outer Space"

13.00  Snack

14.00  Conclusion
        Chair:  Steven J. Dick
        Helmuth Trischler
        "General Commentary"

16.00  End