

Advanced Programme in Space Humanities

A nine-month international programme for artists, scholars, curators, and researchers giving shape to the emerging field of Space Humanities.

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Overview

This programme is for those interested and engaged with the cultural, philosophical and critical dimensions of space. It is designed to explore how space is imagined, narrated, represented, contested and governed across historical, anthropological and artistic perspectives. Building on more than fifteen years of festivals, exhibitions and educational programmes, KOSMICA Academy serves as a pioneering platform for the emerging field of Space Humanities.

Throughout the programme, critical inquiry is combined with creative practice and professional development through a carefully structured sequence of lectures, mentorship, dialogue, and field-building sessions.

Programme Structure

The Advanced Studies in Space Humanities programme takes place from October to June, with fellows meeting online on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, complemented by additional sessions throughout the year.

The programme's rhythm is intentionally designed to allow time between the sessions for reading, reflection, and the development of each fellow's individual project, culminating in a three-day gathering in Berlin.

Language: English

Duration: 9 months (October to June)

Format: Online, plus a three-day gathering in Berlin

Certificate: Advanced Studies in Space

The Syllabus

All sessions are held on Wednesdays,
18:00 to 19:00 CET/CEST

Phase I Foundations

7 October	Opening Session	Fellows' presentations, onboarding & welcome	(October to December) Fellows encounter the foundations of Space Humanities and the assumptions that have shaped space discourse until now.
14 October	Core Lecture 1	Introduction to Space Imaginaries, A Conceptual Map of the Field	
28 October	Core Lecture 2	Mapping the History of Space Culture	
11 November	Field-Building Session 1	Positioning and Articulation	
18 November	Core Lecture 3	Space Governance: Treaties, Law and the Limits of Jurisdiction	
25 November	Core Lecture 4	Non-Western Cosmologies as Epistemological Challenge	
9 December	Core Lecture 5	The Cosmologies of Contemporary Astrophysics	
16 December	Mentorship Session 1	Small-group mentorship on lines of inquiry	

Phase 2 Systems

13 January	Core Lecture 6	The New Space Economy and the Politics of National Agencies	(January to February) Deep engagement with the technoscientific systems that shape current space activities, from satellite constellations to autonomous systems and the political economy of the space sector.
20 January	Core Lecture 7	AI, Autonomous Systems, and the Phenomenology of the Probe	
27 January	Keynote Encounter 1	Preferably someone from the space sector	
10 February	Core Lecture 8	The Image of Space and the Sublime	
17 February	Fellow Presentation 1	Fellows present emerging propositions	
24 February	Field-Building Session 2	Grants, Residencies, and Institutional Navigation	

Phase 3 Propositions

3 March	Core Lecture 9	Planetary Thought Beyond the Human	(March to April) Fellows shift from engaging with ideas to developing their own propositions, supported by mentorship and conversations with their peers.
10 March	Mentorship Session 2	Small-group mentorship on developing propositions	
17 March	Fellow Presentation 2	Fellows present developing propositions	
14 April	Keynote Encounter 2	Preferably someone from the arts and culture sector	
21 April	Field-Building Session 3	Curatorial Practice for Space Culture	
28 April	Mentorship Session 3	Final mentorship on contributions	

Phase 4 Public Contribution

12 May	Core Lecture 10	Counter-imaginaries and Alternative Space Aesthetics (Futurisms)	(May to June) Fellows shape their final contributions and present publicly at the Berlin gathering.
19 May	Field-Building Session 4	Building the Field: Networks, Platforms, and Collective Infrastructure	
26 May	Fellow Presentation 3	Final propositions and text submission for the KOSMICA Reader	
16 to 18 June	Final Presentations in Berlin	Three-day in-person gathering: cohort sessions, public presentations, KOSMICA Reader launch, Fellows Network cohort launch	

The Four Threads

The programme is shaped around four threads that keep returning, in different forms throughout the nine months.

The Imagination Thread examines how space has been imagined across history, tracing the narratives, ideologies and political assumptions that shape exploration while asking what alternative imaginaries might become possible.

The Technoscientific Thread explores satellites, AI, autonomous systems and scientific infrastructures through science and technology studies, political philosophy and the history of science, examining how power, knowledge and governance are produced through space technologies.

The Cosmological Plurality Thread brings indigenous sky knowledge and non-Western cosmologies into dialogue with contemporary space science, treating them not as alternatives to science but as intellectual traditions capable of asking different questions of it.

The Field-Building Thread equips fellows with the professional tools to succeed in the field of Space Humanities. Through sessions led by experienced practitioners, fellows learn how to secure funding, get published, develop curatorial practice, build networks, and navigate the space sector, academia and institutions.

Who Is This For?

Space Humanities is an emerging field, and the KOSMICA Academy is where a new generation of thinkers, artists, curators, and radical practitioners is helping to shape its future.

Fellows come from a wide range of disciplines, including art, academia, curatorial practice, writing, the space sector, architecture, design, and research. More broadly, we welcome anyone ready to question and explore how we relate to the Cosmos, develop an original line of inquiry, and contribute to the evolution of this field.

What You Build

Each fellow will develop an original line of inquiry throughout the nine-month programme, guided by mentorship and enriched through collective discussion. Over time, this inquiry will evolve into an individual project shaped by the fellow's own discipline, perspective, and interests. Projects may take many forms, including conceptual, research-based, policy-oriented, speculative, technological, or artistic.

At the end of the programme, each fellow will produce a final written piece reflecting on their line of inquiry and the work it has generated. These texts are published together in a printed volume, launched during the Berlin gathering.

Fellows are also invited to present their work publicly at a three-day gathering in Berlin. The event combines closed-door sessions for the cohort with a public programme, where each fellow will present their project and the ideas that emerged through their inquiry to a wider audience. Attendance is not mandatory, but we strongly encourage all fellows to join. Travel, accommodation, and other expenses related to the Berlin gathering are covered by the participants.

Certificate

Fellows who successfully complete the programme will receive a Certificate of Advanced Studies in Space Humanities.

Publication

The cohort's final contributions will be published in a printed book produced by KOSMICA Institute as both a record of the programme and a public contribution to the continuing development of Space Humanities. The book is launched at the Berlin gathering, and every fellow will receive copies of the book.

The KOSMICA Fellows Network

Graduates become part of the KOSMICA Fellows Network, an international community of practitioners committed to advancing the field through ongoing collaboration, publications, and public programmes. More than an alumni network, it is an active professional community that fosters long-term exchange, mutual support, and opportunities for future collaboration.

Founding Academic Board



ANNE JOHNSON
UNIVERSIDAD
IBEROAMERICANA
PROFESOR, MEXICO



ANNICK BUREAUD
CURATOR, FRANCE



FELIPE CERVERA
UCLA PROFESSOR, USA



MARIE-PIER BOUCHER
TORONTO UNIVERSITY
PROFESOR, CANADA



ROB LA FRENAIS
CURATOR, FRANCE



ROGER MALINA
UT DALLAS PROFESSOR,
USA

Tuition Fees

We are committed to making the programme as accessible as possible. Tuition follows a sliding scale based on World Bank income classifications, allowing fellows to select the fee level that best reflects their own financial circumstances.

Those with institutional support or greater financial possibilities may choose to contribute at the higher end of the scale, while those with fewer can select a lower tuition fee. This flexible approach is built on trust and collective solidarity, helping ensure that financial circumstances do not become a barrier for those who wish to participate.

Monthly Instalments

Band A — high-income countries
You choose: 1,500 to 2,500 EUR

Band B — all other countries
You choose: 500 to 1,500 EUR

Fellows may choose to pay their programme fee in monthly instalments across the duration of the programme, from October to June. On acceptance, all fellows sign a participation agreement committing to the full fee regardless of payment schedule.

If none of the available payment options works for you, please contact us at ghazal@kosmicainstitute.com and we will find a solution together.

Application

The KOSMICA Academy operates through an application process. Applications are reviewed by the KOSMICA Academy team on a rolling basis, with priority given to applications received before the main deadline.

Each cohort is limited to 20 fellows. Applications open on 22 July 2026 and remain open until either all places have been filled or 30 September 2026, whichever comes first.

How to apply

Applicants submit a short application through the dedicated form, including a personal statement describing their background and reasons for joining the programme.

Applications are reviewed confidentially by the KOSMICA Academy team.

[Find out more](#)

KOSMICA Institute is a non-profit association
registered in Mexico, with operations in Mexico
City and Berlin.

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