

JORDAN BIMM, PhD

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Parrhesia Program on Public Discourse, University of Chicago

CITIZENSHIP: Canadian

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

- History of Space Exploration
- History of Science, Technology, and Medicine
- Science & Technology Studies (STS)

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- 2023 - Assistant Instructional Professor of Science Communication and Public Discourse
Parrhesia Program on Public Discourse
University of Chicago (Chicago, USA)
- 2020-2023 Postdoctoral Research Fellow
Institute on the Formation of Knowledge
University of Chicago (Chicago, USA)
- 2021 Guggenheim Postdoctoral Fellow
Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum (Washington, D.C., USA)
Supervisor: Matthew Shindell
- 2018-2020 SSHRC Postdoctoral Research Fellow
Princeton University (Princeton, USA)
Supervisor: Janet A. Vertesi

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

- 2010-2018 PhD, Science and Technology Studies (STS),
York University (Toronto, Canada)
Supervisor: Edward Jones-Imhotep.
- Fields trained in: History of Science (Bernard Lightman); Human-Machine Interactions (Edward Jones-Imhotep); Bioscience and Biotechnologies (Naomi Adelson).
 - Dissertation: *Anticipating the Astronaut: Subject Formation in Early American Space Medicine, 1949-1959*. Committee: Asif Siddiqi (Fordham University), Matthew Farish (University of Toronto), Matthew Hersch (Harvard University).

- 2015-2016 Visiting Student in the Department of History and Philosophy of Science (HPS)
University of Cambridge (Cambridge, UK)
Sponsor: Helen Anne Curry
- 2009-2010 MA, Science and Technology Studies (STS),
York University (Toronto, Canada)
Supervisor: Edward Jones-Imhotep.
Thesis: *Reliable Bodies, Aeromedical Dreams: A History of American Space Medicine 1948-1964.*
- 2002-2008: BA, History,
University of Toronto (Toronto, Canada)
Thesis: “Who Can Fight the Cold War?”

EXTERNAL RESEARCH AWARDS

- 2023 *Lewis and Clark Fund for Exploration and Field Research*
American Philosophical Society/NASA Astrobiology Program (NAP)
“Putting Mars in a Jar: The Military Origin of Astrobiology”
Value: \$2000.00.
- 2021 *Guggenheim Postdoctoral Fellowship*
Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum (Washington DC, USA)
“Putting Mars in a Jar: The Military Origin of Astrobiology”
Value: \$20,000.
- 2019 *Linda Hall Library Residential Fellowship*
Linda Hall Library (Kansas City, USA)
“Putting Mars in a Jar: The Military Origin of Astrobiology”
Value: \$6,000.
- 2018-2020 *SSRHC Postdoctoral Fellowship*
Princeton University (Princeton, USA)
“Putting Mars in a Jar: The Military Origin of Astrobiology”
Value: \$90,000
- 2014-2015 *History of Science Society/NASA Fellowship in the History of Space Science*
NASA History Office (Washington DC, USA)
“Anticipating the Astronaut”
Value: \$21,000
- 2013-2016 *SSHRC Doctoral Award*
York University (Toronto, Canada)
“Anticipating the Astronaut”
Value: \$80,000

- 2013 *Ontario Graduate Scholarship (OGS)*
York University (Toronto, Canada)
Value: \$15,000 (declined)
- 2012 *Ontario Graduate Scholarship (OGS)*
York University (Toronto, Canada)
Value: \$15,000
- 2011 *Ontario Graduate Scholarship (OGS)*
York University (Toronto, Canada)
Value: \$15,000

WRITING PRIZES

- 2023 *David Edge Prize*, for an outstanding peer-reviewed article or book chapter in Science and Technology Studies (Society for the Social Studies of Science) “The Maintenance of Ambiguity in Martian Exobiology” (with David Reinecke).
- 2016 *Adams Center Prize for Cold War History*, 2016 (Virginia Military Institute)
“Putting Mars in a Jar: The Military Origin of Astrobiology”
Value: \$2000
- 2013 *Sacknoff Prize for Space History* (Society for the History of Technology)
“Rethinking the Overview Effect”
Value: \$300.00

BOOK MANUSCRIPTS

Anticipating the Astronaut: Subject Formation in Early American Space Medicine (Under contract to: The MIT Press, publication expected 2023).

Putting Mars in a Jar: The Military Origin of Astrobiology (research in-progress).

PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

- 2022 “Subjects of Enclosure: Pre-NASA Astronauts in the USAF Space Cabin Simulator” in *Nature of Enclosure* (Ed. Jeffrey S. Nesbit) (Actar, 2022) pp. 42-57.
- 2022 “The Maintenance of Ambiguity in Martian Exobiology” in *Social Studies of Science (SSS)* co-authored with David Reinecke (Princeton University), 52 (No. 2, April 2022) pp. 199-226.
- 2021 “Andean Man and the Astronaut: Race and the 1958 Mount Evans Acclimatization Experiment” in *Historical Studies in the Natural Sciences (HSNS)*, 51 (No 3.) pp. 285-329.
- 2017 “The Well-Tempered Astronaut” co-authored with Patrick Kilian (University of Zurich) in *Nach Feierabend: Der Kalte Krieg*. (Zurich: Diaphanes, 2017). pp. 85-107.

- 2014 “Rethinking the Overview Effect” in *Quest: The History of Spaceflight* (Vol. 21, No.1, 2014) (Winner of the Sacknoff Prize for Space History) pp. 39-59.
- 2013 “Primate Lives in Early American Space Science” in *Quest: The History of Spaceflight* (Vol. 20, No. 4, 2013) pp. 29-40.

SHORT PUBLISHED ARTICLES

- 2021 “Will Virtual Doctors Care for Future Astronauts? The Promise and Perils of AI in Space Medicine” in *Formations* (Publication of the Institute on the Formation of Knowledge) (September 2021) Co-authored with student research assistant Giacomo Cetorelli.
- 2020 “Green Mars: The Origin of Strughold’s Vegetation Hypothesis” in *The Hedgehog* (The Linda Hall Library for Science, Engineering, and Technology) (No. 66, Fall 2020) pp. 4-7.
- 2019 “Baby Space Station” in *Quest: The History of Spaceflight* (Vol. 26, No. 2, 2019) pp. 44-46.
- 2017 “Notes from the Field: Roswell, New Mexico” in *Technology’s Stories* (January 2017)
- 2016 “Introduction to “The Beginnings of Research in Space Biology at the Air Force Missile Development Center, Holloman Air Force Base, New Mexico 1946-1952”” in *Quest: The History of Spaceflight* (Vol. 23, No. 1, 2016)

WORKS IN PROGRESS

- “Space Commodities: The Trouble with Space Auctions” co-authored with Eleanor Armstrong (University of Stockholm). Submitted and under review.
- “Dummy Astronauts: The Cultural Work of Anthropomorphic Mannequins in American Space Exploration” co-authored with Patrick Kilian (University of Zurich/ETH Zurich). In-progress.

CONSULTING

- 2023- Consultant to NASA Astrobiology Program (NAP)
- Beginning in January 2023 meet weekly with top scientists and administrators
 - Science Communication Co-lead for NAP workshop “Communicating the Discovery of Life in the Universe”
 - Liaison between NAP and science journalism community

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Chicago (Chicago, USA)

- Winter 2022 Instructor: Research in Archives: Human Bodies in History, (HIST 25513) Institute on the Formation of Knowledge, IRHUM undergraduate research seminar. (Co-designed and co-taught with Dr. Iris Clever).
- Autumn 2022 Instructor: Explorations of Mars, (HIST 35200/ENST 26070) Institute on the Formation of Knowledge, MAPSS graduate seminar.
- Autumn 2022 Instructor: Explorations of Mars, (KNOW 11009) The Graham School of Continuing Liberal and Professional Studies. Continuing education seminar.
- Autumn 2021 Instructor: Explorations of Mars, (HIST 35200/ENST 26070) Institute on the Formation of Knowledge, MAPSS graduate seminar.
- Autumn 2021 Instructor: Research in Archives: Human Bodies in History, (HIST 25513) Institute on the Formation of Knowledge, IRHUM undergraduate research seminar. (Co-designed and co-taught with Dr. Iris Clever).
- Spring 2021 Instructor: Explorations of Mars, (HIST 35200/ENST 26070) Institute on the Formation of Knowledge, MAPSS graduate seminar.
- Winter 2021 Instructor: The Human Body in Extremes, (HIPS 2600) Institute on the Formation of Knowledge, IRHUM undergraduate research seminar.

York University (Toronto, Canada)

Teaching assistant in the Division of Natural Sciences

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| 2016 | NATS 1745 | History of Astronomy (Robin Metcalfe) |
| 2015 | NATS 1745 | History of Astronomy (Robin Metcalfe) |
| 2014 | NATS 1745 | History of Astronomy (Robin Metcalfe) |
| 2013 | NATS 1760 | Science, Technology, and Society (Edward Jones-Imhotep) |
| 2010 | NATS 1700 | Computers, Information, and Society (Robert Levine) |

Centennial College (Toronto, Canada)

- 2017 Instructor: Growing Up Digital: Living and Working in Canada (GNED190)
- 2016 Instructor: Art and Design Portfolio Development (GNED200)
- 2015 Instructor: Growing Up Digital: Living and Working in Canada (GNED190)
- 2008 Instructor: Growing Up Digital: Living and Working in Canada (GNED190)

STUDENT ADVISING

University of Chicago (Chicago, USA)

2023: Isabella Cisneros

- Co-founded SPACELAB space science communication research unit
- Advised NASA Astrobiology Program (NAP) on science communication strategy and practices
- Designed and conducted social science survey “Surveying Public Attitudes Concerning Extraterrestrial Life and Biosignatures” (IRB23-03-40)
- Published “The Fault in Our Mars Settlement Plans” in *The Space Review*

2023: Jorge Palacios

- MA Thesis: *Martian Borderlands: Colonizing (Outer) Space in the Lower Rio Grande Valley* (Submitted: August 2023). Ethnography of SpaceX’s Starbase facility and surrounding communities and ecosystems.

2022: Aaron Unger

- Recipient of Stamps Scholarship Undergraduate Research Fellowship

2021: Giacomo Cetorelli

- Co-authored article “Will Virtual Doctors Care for Future Astronauts? The Promise and Perils of AI in Space Medicine”

BOOK REVIEWS

- 2022 Book Review: Munns, David; Kärin Nickelsen. “Far Beyond the Moon: A History of Life Support Systems in the Space Age” in *Technology and Culture*, 63 (No. 21, 2022) pp. 302-304.
- 2020 Book Review: Clements, Philip W. “Science in an Extreme Environment: The 1963 American Mount Everest Expedition” in *The British Journal of the History of Science* Vol. 53 No. 1, 2020, pp. 121-123.
- 2019 Book Review: Caswell, Kurt. “Laika’s Window: Legacy of a Soviet Space Dog” in *Quest: The History of Spaceflight* Vol. 26, No. 2, 2019, pp. 79-80.
- 2018 Book Review: Dick, Steven J. “Historical Studies in the Societal Impact of Spaceflight” in *Technology and Culture* (Johns Hopkins University Press, Vol. 59, No. 1, 2018) pp. 183-185.

- 2014 Book Review: Michael J. Neufeld (editor) “Spacefarers: Images of Astronauts and Cosmonauts in the Heroic era of Spaceflight.” (Washington D.C.: Smithsonian Institution Scholarly Press, 2013) in *Isis* (University of Chicago Press, Vol. 105, No. 4, 2014) pp. 871.
- 2012 Book Review: Douglas Vakoch (editor) “The Psychology of Space Exploration: Contemporary Research in Historical Perspective” (Washington D.C.: NASA History Office, 2011) in *Isis* (University of Chicago Press, Vol. 103, No. 4, 2012) pp. 812.

INVITED LECTURES

- 2023 “Introduction to *First Man*” at Northwestern University, Science on Screen series.
- 2022 “The Maintenance of Ambiguity in Martian Exobiology” (with David Reinecke) at NASA Headquarters. Astrobiology group (April), Science Mission Directorate (July).
- 2021 “Rethinking the Overview Effect: The Case for Multiple Cultural Experiences of the Earth from Space” at the Future In-Space Operations (FISO) telecon.
- 2021 “Putting Mars in a Jar” at the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum (NASM).
- 2020 “Green Mars” at the Institute on the Formation of Knowledge (University of Chicago).
- 2020 “Isolation, Confinement, and Vigilance in Early Spaceflight Simulations” at Future In-Space Operations (FISO) telecon.
- 2020 “The Push-Button Astronaut” at NASA Headquarters, Colloquium Speaker Series. Washington D.C.
- 2020 “*LIFE* Support: Photojournalism and NASA’s Project Mercury Astronauts” at Princeton University, guest lecture for the undergraduate seminar “Getting the Picture: Photojournalism in Russia and the US” (Dr. Katherine Hill Reischl)
- 2019 “Labor Politics in Early Space Simulations” part of the Sky Lab Revolution Workshop at Toronto Public Library (Toronto, Canada) organized by the Little Dada Collective.
- 2019 “Anticipating the Astronaut” at York University (Toronto), guest lecture for undergraduate course “The Anthropology of Outer Space” (Dr. Kathryn Denning).
- 2019 “Astronauts & Astrobiology: Military Space Science Before Apollo”. Fellow’s lecture at The Linda Hall Library for Science, Technology, and Engineering, Kansas City, MO, USA.
- 2018 “Three Weston Moments in Toronto’s Aerospace History”. Lecture at the Weston Historical Society, Toronto, Canada.
- 2017 “Toronto’s Heritage of Innovation: Aerospace: Canada 150”. Heritage Toronto Lecture at Downsview Park, Toronto, Canada.

- 2017 “Putting Mars in a Jar: The Military Origins of Astrobiology”. Solar System Social (Monthly Planetary Science Speaker Series), Toronto, Canada.
- 2017 “Spacemen in the Basement: Making Astronauts in the USAF Space Cabin Simulator”. Auburn University, AL, USA. Lecture in the Department of History.
- 2014 “How to Write About Space Disasters”. Guest lecture for Seneca College’s Technical Writing class. Toronto, Canada.
- 2013 “Rethinking the Overview Effect” at the Society for the History of Technology (SHOT), Portland, ME, USA. Sacknoff Lecture (SHOT’s aerospace special interest group).

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2022 “Military Models of Mars” at the Society for the Social Studies of Science (4S). Cholula, Mexico
- 2022 “Mars Bubble” at Seedling Biospheres. Collège de France, Université PSL.
- 2022 “The Cold War Politics of Habitability in Early Astrobiology” at the History of Science Society (HSS). Chicago, IL.
- 2022 “Simulating Life in Alien Environments: NASA and the Politics of “Mars Jars” part of the History of NASA and the Environment Symposium at Georgetown University. Washington D.C.
- 2022 “Andean Man and the Astronaut: Exclusion by Inclusion in Early Space Medicine” part of the Advancing Inclusivity, Diversity, Equity, and Access in Planetary Science Conference at NASA’s Lunar and Planetary Institute (LPI). (virtual)
- 2021 “Designs on Mars: Cold War Models of a Green and Red Planet” at the Society for the History of Technology (SHOT). New Orleans, LA (virtual).
- 2021 “The Cold War Politics of Early USAF Astrobiology” at the American Anthropological Association (AAA). Baltimore, MD (virtual).
- 2021 “Military Models of Life on Mars” at the Society for the Social Studies of Science (4S). Toronto, Canada (virtual).
- 2019 “Dummy Astronauts: The Cultural Work of Anthropomorphic Mannequins in American Space Exploration” at the Society for the History of Technology (SHOT), Milan, Italy. Co-presentation with Patrick Kilian (University of Zurich/ETH Zurich).
- 2018 “Military Natures of Astrobiology: Life-on-Mars Studies In The Early Cold War” at History of Science Society (HSS), Seattle, WA, USA.
- 2017 “Andean Man and the Astronaut: Space, Race, and Cold War Altitude Physiology” at History of Science Society (HSS), Toronto, Canada.

- 2017 “Rethinking the Overview Effect: A Problematic Utopianism in Spaceflight” at Society for the History of Technology (SHOT), Philadelphia, PA, USA.
- 2015 “What’s in the Mars Jar? Cold War Astrobiology and the idea of Mars as a Microbial Place” at the American Anthropological Association (AAA), Denver, CO, USA.
- 2015 “Race and the Astronaut Body: The Mount Evans Acclimatization Experiment” at the Society for the Social Studies of Science (4S), Denver, CO, USA.
- 2015 “Spaceships in the Basement: A History of the Space Cabin Simulator” at the Society for the History of Technology (SHOT), Albuquerque, NM, USA.
- 2014 “Simulating Mars in the 1950s and the Military Origins of Astrobiology” at “Embattled Heavens: The Militarization of Space in Science, Fiction, and Politics”. Freie Universität, Berlin, Germany.
- 2013 ““A Better Man Than Ever”: German Mountaineering and Early American Space Medicine” at the History of Science Society (HSS), Boston, MA, USA.
- 2013 “Between Human and Animal Astronauts: Anthropomorphizing Monkeys in Early American Space Medicine” at the International Congress of History of Science, Technology, and Medicine (ICHSTM), Manchester, UK.
- 2012 “How Do We Remember Animals Sent into Outer Space?” at the Society for the Social Studies of Science (4S), Copenhagen, Denmark.
- 2012 “Putting Mars in A Jar: Space medicine and the complicated origins of astrobiology in America” at the Society for the History of Technology (SHOT), Copenhagen, Denmark.

MEDIA APPEARANCES & EXPERIENCE

Since 2020 I have been interviewed over 100 times about current events in space exploration across various media including print, live television, radio, and podcasts.

Print: *The New York Times*, *National Geographic*, *The Atlantic*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *WIRED* magazine, *The Associated Press*, *The Toronto Star*, *The Chicago Tribune*, *Fortune*, *Haaretz*, *Fast Company*, *Slate*, *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, *Space.com*, *Gizmodo*, *Business Insider*, *Protocol*, *El Mundo*, *The National Post*, *University of Toronto Faculty of Medicine Quarterly*, *MacLean’s*, *YorkU Magazine*.

Television and Radio: *The National*, Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC Television), *The Pulse with Maiken Scott* (NPR, WHYI), *Al Jazeera* (with Mike Hanna), *NBC 5 Chicago*, *FOX 32 Chicago*, *FOX 26 Houston*. *WGN Evening News*, *WTTW (PBS) Chicago Tonight*, *CBS 2 Chicago*, *CTV News*.

Podcasts: *Big Brains* (University of Chicago’s flagship podcast), *Dope Labs* (Spotify Original popular science podcast) *Nature of Enclosure with Jeffrey S. Nesbit*, *Space Junk with Annie Handmer*, *Time to Eat the*

Dogs with Michael Robinson, The Lady Science Podcast, Princeton Alumni Weekly Podcast, The Life Sciences Podcast, York Universe Podcast.

PUBLIC WRITING & JOURNALISM

- 2021 “How Jeff Bezos’ Space Launch Will Change Aerospace History” in *Barron’s* magazine, July 20, 2021.
- 2017 “Canada’s Space Program Has a Diversity Problem” in *Toronto Star*, July 9, 2017.
- 2015 “Alien Life May Be Stranger Than We Can Imagine” in *Toronto Star*, July 25, 2015.
- 2015 “It’s Time to Tackle ‘Lie-To-Fly’ Culture Among Pilots” in *Toronto Star*, March 28, 2015

PUBLIC HISTORY & MUSEUM WORK

- 2018 “Soyuz Spacecraft Acquisition Background Report.” Report for Canada Aviation and Space Museum (CASM), Ottawa, ON.
- 2017 “Overview of Canadian Space Medicine from 2000-Present.” Report for Canada Aviation and Space Museum (CASM), Ottawa, ON.
- 2014 Acquisition consulting for Canada Science and Technology Museum (CSTM). Ottawa, ON.
- 2013 Acquisition field work and consulting for Canada Science and Technology Museum (CSTM) at Canadian Space Agency (CSA), Longueuil, Quebec.
- 2010 Oral history interview series. Subject: Dr. Gary Gray, Flight Surgeon to Canadian Space Agency astronauts. Defence Research and Development Canada (DRDC) Toronto, ON.

FIELDWORK

- June 2023 Participant observation as a member of Mars Desert Research Station (MDRS) Crew 282, “Martian Biology III” (Mars analog mission: MDRS, Utah).
- June 2022 Participant observation as a member of Mars Desert Research Station (MDRS) Crew 243, “Martian Biology II” (Mars analog mission: MDRS, Utah).

SERVICE TO THE FIELD

- 2022- American Historical Association (AHA) NASA Fellowships in Aerospace History Selection committee. Representative for the History of Science Society (HSS).
- 2015- Manuscript reviewer for: *Historical Studies in the Natural Sciences, Technology and Culture, The Science Museum Group Journal, The Royal Society, The MIT Press, War in History, Palgrave MacMillian, Anthem Press, Antipodes.*