

## JORDAN BIMM, PhD

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Institute on the Formation of Knowledge (IFK), 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

- 2020- 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
- 2010-2014 Book Review Assistant for *Isis*  
History of Science Society (HSS)

## 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

- 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: \$6,0000.
- 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

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.

## 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)**

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| 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) |

## **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

- 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*, *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* (National Public Radio, NPR, WHYI), *Al Jazeera* (with Mike Hanna), *NBC 5 Chicago*, *FOX 32 Chicago*, *FOX 26 Houston*. *WGN Evening News*, *WTTW (PBS) Chicago Tonight*.

**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**

- 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*.