Terrestrial Models for the Recognition of Human Heritage in Outer Space

Presented by David Jaffe
On behalf of the Stanford Student Space Initiative Policy Team

Problem and Objectives

- No laws protect historic sites in outer space

- History is vulnerable to destruction

- International committee should establish a framework for preservation

- Contemporary terrestrial models cannot be directly applied

Past Treaties

- 1959 Antarctic Treaty

- 1967 Outer Space Treaty

- 1972 UNESCO World Heritage Convention

- 1979 Moon Treaty

- 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea

- 2001 Underwater Convention

Outer Space Treaty

"Outer space, including the moon and other celestial bodies, is not subject to national appropriation by claim of sovereignty, by means of use or occupation, or by any other means."

- Article II

- Demands new worldview of heritage
  - Separation of artifacts and land
- Fails to preserve sites of human heritage

Antarctic Treaty System

- Registry of Historic Sites and Monuments in Antarctica

- Sector ownership inapplicable to space

- Transparency difficult to realize in space

World Heritage Convention

- Depends on national ownership/location within a state's borders

- Space heritage must be assessed as individual artifacts amd sites rather than as territory

- Future heritage sites may be private, requires transfer of ownership

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Economic Incentives

- Many states hope to extract resources from space

- Frameworks that limit economic freedom in space will face opposition

- In the future, individuals will have regular access to space

Making Preservation a Reality

- Preservation is not a new or impossible concept

- There is global consensus on the value of preservation

- Sending a message that we value science and history

- Education and motivation of future generations

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