



International Relations in space: challenges and opportunities for Europe

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1. Space and IR

- IR are shaping Space:

- End of the Cold War had consequences on space activities:
 - Increasing number of actors
 - Diversification of their nature (public actors, private actors, NGOs, IOs)
- Space mirrors main transversal issues of IR:
 - Competition/cooperation
 - Unilateralism/ multilateralism
 - Polarity of the international system
 - Globalization and international trade
 - Global governance



- Space is shaping IR:

- Space policy is a complex issue-area at the intersection of the 3 major issue-areas in world politics:

- Security
- Welfare
- System of rule

- Space is associated with some of the major challenges of current world politics:

- Global warming
- Terrorism
- Proliferation
- Poverty/development
- Rule of law

2. Space and Europe's IR

- International space cooperation serves European interests:
 - International cooperation is contributing to Europe's space policy objectives :
 - Utilitarian cooperation
 - ISS, exploration
 - Space is contributing to Europe's foreign policy objectives:
 - Political cooperation
 - Climate change, sustainable development, humanitarian aid, security



- Space is illustrating Europe's positioning in the international system:
 - Space and Europe's international actorness:
 - Europe is an international actor under construction
 - Europe's actorness in space depends on the area (civilian/military space)
 - Space and Europe's international identity:
 - Is Europe a normative, a civilian, a civilizing or simply a weak power?
 - Discourse vs. Reality: critical analysis
 - Specific European identity in space cooperation?

3. Challenges for Europe's IR in space

- Structural challenges (long term)
 - Strive for internal cohesion
 - Find the right balance between cooperation and autonomy
 - Remain a credible cooperation partner for established spacefaring nations

- Short to medium-term challenges
 - Adapt to the emergence of new actors
 - Cope with the consequences of the economic crisis



4. Drivers of the conference

- Combine internal and external perspectives
- Combine policy and operational aspects
- Combine geographic and thematic approaches

