



ASSOCIATION OF SPACE EXPLORERS – EUROPE

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Report on the IAC 2021 in Dubai

By Dr. Julie Patarin-Jossec, ASE Emerging Space Champion 2021
(edited for shortness)

From October 25 to October 29, 2021, I had the opportunity to attend in person the 72nd International Astronautical Congress held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. As a public university scholar in social sciences, IACs are sometimes too expensive to attend – both depending on the location and IAF's registration fees. This edition in Dubai would have been one of those if I hadn't obtained a generous stipend from the Association of Space Explorers, as part of the Association's Emerging Space Champion award I had the great honor to [receive a few months ago](#). While this award is a wonderful recognition granted to my work in sociology and space politics, and more generally to social scientific research on human spaceflight, this grant allowed me to actively contribute to the 2021 IAC, both as a researcher and the Chair of an IAF technical committee – cf. below. (...)



Julie Patarin-Jossec, during the Special Session "Rethinking the sustainability and inclusiveness of space exploration through the design of space habitats", Dubai IAC 2021. Shot on Oct. 26th by the IAF media staff.

(...)(I) headed to the World Trade Center for one intense and fruitful last day on Friday – starting with an early talk by Dr. Chris Boshuizen about his flight aboard Blue Origin's New Shepard on October 18th. Discussions over the fast-growing changes in commercial human spaceflight continued later in the morning with the traditional IAF-ASE Astronauts session, in which participants tackled various aspects of the changing landscape of human space exploration (from memories of professional astronauts' flight experiences to the future of astronaut/cosmonaut training, to the semantic definitions of professional/commercial crewmembers). Later that day, (I attended) the second most important event I had during this IAC (...): the Space Habitats Committee meeting. The SHC was created only recently (2020), but this IAC was the opportunity for all technical committees to organize elections for their membership and chair(s). In addition to remote participants who joined via a videoconference call, the room was incredibly packed, both with current members and newcomers interested to join the committee. Consequently, we ran out of time quite quickly, but I had the immense pleasure to be reelected as the Chair, supported by two newly elected Vice-Chairs: Olga Bannova and Sandra Häuplik-Meusburger. The SHC does have a very feminine leadership!

(...) however, there was something more in being in Dubai, able to handle these activities thanks to the support of the ASE: I wasn't just a delegate or a young professional attending a conference. I was, somewhat, a representative of an eminent organization whose support acknowledged my contribution to the field of space activities. Needless to say, this gave me a strong sense of responsibilities and I put all the energy I had during this week to live up to this. Without a doubt, this is a feeling that all future ASE Emerging Space Champions will share and try to live up to via their work, whatever their discipline.



From left to right : Dr. Olga Bannova, Jean-François Clervoy, Dr. Julie Patarin-Jossec. Shot on Oct. 26th during the Special Session "Rethinking the sustainability and inclusiveness of space exploration through the design of space habitats" at Dubai IAC 2021 by the IAF media staff.