



56th Otago Foreign  
Policy School



# Ascending into space: New Zealand's role as a space-faring nation

## PROGRAMME

Friday 1 July–Sunday 3 July 2022



## Introduction

---

New Zealand's space industry has grown significantly over the past few years.

Unlike its Five Eyes partners who have developed their respective space programmes upon the foundations of military research and design within the Cold War context, New Zealand's space industry has built its foundation on the rapid development of commercial space activities. This presents both opportunities and challenges. Currently, New Zealand sits at an important juncture and has the potential to become a global leader as a premier nation-state for low Earth orbit activities, given both its regulatory infrastructure and unique positioning on the globe.

However, it also means that, now more than ever, New Zealand must consider the lessons learnt from its Five Eyes partners, especially when shaping its foreign policy as it continues to mould its current space policy and framework. To a large extent, this means that New Zealand's space posture must account for commercial (regulatory and technological), national (environmental and cultural), scientific (research development and global collaboration) and security (national and international) considerations. This year's Foreign Policy School considers the following key themes:

- New Zealand's commercial, defence, security and regulatory postures concerning space activities and development.
- International relations between New Zealand and other space-faring nations.
- Challenges and opportunities that technological developments pose, such as cyber security over space assets.
- Collaborative scientific developments that consider environmental impacts from space activities and the maintenance of cultural heritage.

**Dr Maria A. Pozza**  
**Director and Principal Lawyer,**  
**Gravity Lawyers, New Zealand**  
**Director, 56th Foreign Policy School**

## Programme

---

### DAY 1 FRIDAY 1 JULY

3:30pm- 5:00pm Registration

5:00pm Opening of the School

5:20pm **Mihi whakatau**  
Mr Shayne Walker,  
Social and Community Work,  
University of Otago

5:30pm **Dr Maria A. Pozza**  
Director, 56th Foreign Policy School

5:40pm **Professor Richard Blaikie**  
Deputy Vice-Chancellor  
(Research and Enterprise)

5:50pm **Mr Aaron Hawkins**  
Mayor of Dunedin

6:00pm **Mr Iain Cossar**  
New Zealand Space Agency

6:10pm **Hon. Nanaia Mahuta**  
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade

7:00pm Cocktail Function

### DAY 2 SATURDAY 3 JULY

8:25am **Welcome**  
Dr Maria A. Pozza  
Director, 56th Foreign Policy School

8:30am **Dr Nicholas Rattenbury**  
Department of Physics, University of Auckland

"Ascending into space: New Zealand's role as a space-faring nation."

Chair: Dr Maria A. Pozza  
Gravity Lawyers, New Zealand

9:15am **Ms Victoria Samson**  
Washington Office Director,  
Secure World Foundation,  
United States (via Zoom)

"Cyber security in outer space."

Chair: Professor Robert Patman,  
Politics Programme, University of Otago

**10:00am Professor Dale Stephens**  
Director, Adelaide Research Unit on Military Law and Ethics, Law School, University of Adelaide (via Zoom)

“International law governing military activities in outer space.”

**Chair: Ms Cecile Hillyer**  
Head of International Security and Disarmament Division, MFAT

**10:45am Morning tea**

**11:30am Mr Chris Kunstadter**  
Global Head of Space AXA XL (via Zoom)

“Insuring space activities and space-related liabilities: The issues that keep the space insurers up at night.”

**Chair: Dr Dana L. Ott**  
Department of Management, School of Business, University of Otago

**12:15pm Adjunct Professor Ricky Lee**  
University of Notre Dame, Australia

“Legal status of private spacefarers as astronauts: Oversight, emergency assistance and rescue obligations for humans in outer space”

**Chair: Associate Professor Marcelle Dawson**  
Sociology, Gender Studies and Criminology Programme, University of Otago

**1:00pm Lunch**

**2:00pm Mr Robin McNeill**  
Chief Executive Officer, SpaceOps New Zealand

“Commercial space activities from Aotearoa”

**Chair: Associate Professor Sergio Biggemann**  
Department of Marketing, University of Otago

**2:45pm Ms Ashely Tokic and Mr Mark Saavedra**  
US Embassy

“Space activities: What it means for the US and New Zealand relationship.”

**Chair: Wing Commander Benjamin Till**  
Director of Space Programme, Headquarters Joint Forces New Zealand (HQJFNZ)

**3:15pm Afternoon tea**

**3:45pm Professor Fabio Tronchetti**  
Co-Director, Institute of Space Law and Strategy, Beihang University, Beijing, China (via Zoom)

“The future of China’s space programme.”

**Chair: Dr Peter Grace**  
Politics Programme, University of Otago

**4:45pm Professor K. R. Sridhara Murthi**  
Hon. Director, International Institute of Space Law and Director, Jain University, India (via Zoom)

“Transformational trends in India’s space programme.”

**Chair: Professor Philip Nel**  
Politics Programme, University of Otago

**5:30pm End of day two**

**DAY 3 SUNDAY 3 JULY**

**8:25am Welcome**  
Dr Maria A. Pozza  
Director, 56th Foreign Policy School

**8:30am Ms Dovilė Matulevičiute**  
Luxembourg Space Agency (via Zoom)

“Luxembourg’s space legal framework: The future potential collaboration work between Luxembourg and New Zealand in space.”

**Chair: Flight Sergeant Donna Walker**  
Space Programme Training and Development Coordinator, NZDF

**9:15am Ms Val Sim and Dr Ilija Tolich**  
New Zealand Space Agency, Ministry of Business, Innovation, and Employment

“New Zealand’s legal and policy framework over space activities: Current changes underway.”

**Chair: Dr Maria A. Pozza**  
Gravity Lawyers, New Zealand

**10:00am Mr Michael Gaskin**  
Ministry Foreign Affairs and Trade

“New Zealand’s strategic direction in space.”

**Chair: Professor Robert Patman**  
Politics Programme, University of Otago

**10:45am Morning tea**

- 11:15am Emeritus Professor of Astronomy John Hearnshaw  
University of Canterbury
- “Light pollution and the future of space science and astronomy.”
- Chair: Professor David MacDonald  
Political Science Department,  
University of Guelph, Canada
- 12:00pm Professor Craig Roger  
Department of Physics, University of Otago
- “Space weather: A global hazard from space to New Zealand’s technological infrastructure.”
- Chair: Dr Ian Griffiin  
Director, Otago Museum, Dunedin
- 12:45pm Lunch
- 1:45pm Professor Jörg Frauendiener  
Department of Mathematics and Statistics,  
University of Otago
- “LISA: New Zealand and European collaboration in outer space.”
- Chair: Mr Kevin O’Connell  
Delegation of the European Union to  
New Zealand
- 2:30pm Ms Toni Hoeta, Ngāti Rangī, Te Atihaunui-ā-paparangi,  
Ngāti Porou, Te Atiawa, and Dr Andrew Mills,  
Tūhura Otago Museum
- “He ara kōrero pūtaiao: Integrating culture into space science outreach initiatives”
- Chair: Ms Eva Wagner  
Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, Canberra
- 3:15pm Afternoon tea
- 3:45pm Panel session: Future considerations for Space Activities
- Panellists: Mr James Powell  
Dawn Aerospace, New Zealand  
“Innovation of commercial space technology.”
- Dr Ian Griffiin  
Director, Otago Museum, Dunedin  
“The importance of space science.”
- Wing Commander Benjamin Till  
Director of Space Programme, Headquarters  
Joint Forces New Zealand (HQJFNZ)
- “Space Awareness Journey.”
- Chair: Professor Philip Nel  
Politics Programme, University of Otago

- 4:30pm MFAT representatives’ reflections
- 4:40pm Closing remarks  
Dr Maria A. Pozza  
Director, 56th Foreign Policy School
- 4:45pm End of School

## Sponsors

The organisers gratefully acknowledge the assistance of the following organisations and agencies:

Delegation of the European Union to New Zealand  
Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, Canberra  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade  
University of Otago, Vice-Chancellor’s Fund  
University of Otago, Division of Humanities

## CONTACT PERSON

Dr Balazs Kiglics, Co-ordinator  
University of Otago Foreign Policy School  
Mobile +64 21 158 5492  
Email [balazs.kiglics@otago.ac.nz](mailto:balazs.kiglics@otago.ac.nz)

## Academic Committee of the 56th University of Otago Foreign Policy School

Dr Maria A. Pozza  
Director of the 56th Otago Foreign Policy School  
Director and Principal Lawyer, Gravity Lawyers,  
New Zealand

Dr Balazs Kiglics  
Foreign Policy School Co-ordinator  
Languages and Cultures,  
University of Otago

Professor Robert Patman  
Politics, University of Otago

Professor Ben Schonthal  
Religion, University of Otago

Professor Paola Voci  
Languages and Cultures, University of Otago

Associate Professor Marcelle Dawson  
Sociology, Gender Studies and Criminology,  
University of Otago

Associate Professor SungYong Lee  
National Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies,  
University of Otago

Dr Dennis Wesselbaum  
Department of Economics, University of Otago

Dr Peter Grace  
Politics, University of Otago