**University of Leicester Future 100 PhD Scholarship**

**Project Reference: RI-SPACE-Bowen**

**Section 1 – *Supervisor Information***

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| **First Supervisor**  | Dr Bleddyn Bowen |
| **School/Department** | Politics and International Relations |
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| **Proposed Second Supervisor** | Professor Andrew Futter |
| **Additional Supervisor** | Dr Nigel Bannister |

**Section 2 – *Project Information***

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| **Project Title** | Space Policy in the Global Space Age |
| **Project Highlights:** | 1. | Currently, U.S. and European space policy analysis dominates the nascent field of space policy; this project moves the field towards a more global perspective by focusing on space policy as it relates to the Global South and the non-Western world. The project seeks to develop cutting edge research on the impact of the proliferation of spacepower – space technologies and infrastructure – on the Global South and non-Western worlds, how they are impacting the development and governance of outer space in turn, as well as potentially security and military impacts of space policy beyond the West, as driven by the background, approaches, proposal, and skillset of the selected candidate. |
| 2. | This PhD scholarship in space policy will contribute to boosting HyPIR and UoL’s existing international prominence in space *policy* and *politics*, which complements UoL’s leading position in the UK and Europe in space science and engineering, as demonstrated by the new Space Park Leicester venture. As well as Space Park Leicester’s work on training STEM space experts of the future, UoL should aim to train and educate the space *policy* experts of the future as well by investing in space policy research such as this. |
| 3. | The primary supervisor is one of the few expert and published scholars on space policy in UK academia with access to global space expert networks that would help build the candidate’s transnational professional network and provide directly relevant subject matter expertise in the nascent fields of space policy and astropolitics. |
| **Project Overview** |
| Whilst the Space Age is global, our knowledge of it is not. Today, over 80 countries around the world have satellites in space, or companies registered within those states operate satellites. Over 4,500 active satellites now orbit Earth providing military, political, economic, and intelligence capabilities. Of the 9 states that can launch satellites into space by their own means, only 3 are ‘Western’: the USA, the EU/France, and Russia. Most are not in the West: China, India, Japan, North and South Korea, and Israel. Yet the nascent field of astropolitics and space policy is heavily dominated by expertise and literature (in the Anglosphere) that mostly centres on the United States and western Europe. The truly global nature of the Space Age – and something dominated by the West – needs to be recognised in our research and knowledge of outer space.This project seeks to develop academic expertise on the rationales, perspectives, difficulties, and ambitions of non-Western space actors or ‘space powers’ as part of wider cross-disciplinary drives to diversify and decolonise academia, curriculums, and research. This project therefore aims to appoint a high calibre PhD candidate to research space policy and activity beyond the West and/or the Global South - broadly defined – and bringing about more diverse perspectives by being open to methods and approaches from any subfield of IR as driven by the successful candidate. There will be additional supervision from a professor at CSE to provide technical and practical guidance on the cutting edge of contemporary space technology development that complements the political and strategic expertise in HyPIR, as well as a tangible link between CSSAH and CSE through the Space Park Institute. Potential research topics involving space policy and the Global South include, but are not limited to:* Non-Western perspectives on and consequences of the practices of international space organisations (e.g. UN Office of Outer Space Affairs, International Telecommunications Union, African Space Agency)
* The politics of space STEM knowledge production in the non-Western world
* The drivers, ambitions, goals, and challenges of newer, non-Western space actors
* Military space technology modernisation and their impact on the international balance of power
* The environmental and security politics of space debris mitigation and removal
* The role of the Global South in emerging Space Traffic Management regime and Space Situational Awareness data sharing/development.
* The colonial practices of space development and marginalized and indigenous groups in space policy (e.g. Korou, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Thumba)
* Lunar exploration governance, China-US lunar rivalry’s implications for developing states
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| **Methodology** |
| Specific case studies will be selected based on the candidate’s expertise. This project also welcomes a variety of methodologies across IR, including those that challenge methodological orthodoxies in the field, and will be driven by the candidate’s background and proposal. Major methods likely to be used are:1. Decision-making or causal analysis approaches in IR with regard to space policy documentation and budgeting
2. Discourse analysis of landmark documents, speeches, and parliamentary testimony
3. Archival research (government agency or national archives of relevant states)
4. Elite and practitioner interviews in relevant space sectors and government departments
5. Focus group interviews with STEM-educated space experts in academia and industry

References* Bleddyn Bowen, *Original Sin: Military Space Technology and the Global Space Age* (Hurst, forthcoming 2022)
* Bleddyn Bowen, *War in Space: Strategy, Spacepower, Geopolitics* (Edinburgh University Press, 2020)
* Bleddyn Bowen, ‘British strategy and outer space: A missing link?’, *British Journal of Politics and International Relations*, 2018
* Bleddyn Bowen, ‘Cascading Crises: Orbital Debris and the Widening of Space Security’, *Astropolitics: The International Journal of Space Politics and Policy*, 2014
* Andrew Futter, *The Politics of Nuclear Weapons* (Palgrave, 2020)
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