

Jim Pass, Ph.D.

Jim Pass received a Ph.D. in sociology in 1991 with concentrations in deviance and political economy. Even before graduation, he was struck by the void within both the social science and space communities of a field that amounts to “the sociology of outer space.” Though a few had attempted to argue for it, nothing ever materialized in this area. One day in December 2002, he came across an article by Allen Tough entitled *Positive Consequences of SETI Before Detection* in which Dr. Tough mentioned the need for a new field such as “social astronomy” or “astrosociology.” Seeing the term “astrosociology” sparked an idea in Dr. Pass about how to bring together two interests that never meshed before in a formal manner (that is, sociology and space exploration). After several months of working out the details of the new field’s purview and definition, Dr. Pass launched the website *Astrosociology.com* in July of 2003 along with Part One of his Inaugural Essay. From that point until the present, astrosociology has continued to develop as both a sociological subfield and multidisciplinary social science field. Dr. Pass has presented papers and organized astrosociology sessions at conferences dedicated to both sociology and space exploration. Regarding the latter group (i.e., the space community), Dr. Pass was instrumental along with a few others in creating an Astrosociology Working Group within the AIAA now under the sponsorship of the Society and Aerospace Technology Technical Committee. He has written articles that were published in journals and conference proceedings on various subjects so as to demonstrate the large purview of astrosociology. As the founder of astrosociology, he continues to work on furthering its development within the social science community and the space community; as well as gaining recognition of it as viable field by NASA, other national space agencies, and other professional social science and space organizations around the world.

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