

**Second
MST Graduate
Student Café**



Solomon Hajramezan

A dream of spaceflight in the United States



Angela Wilson

**When science facts become
science fiction: understanding the
pseudoscience BS spread
by an online cult leader**

Ariel Kroon

**Beyond survival: 20th century Canadian
post-apocalyptic science fiction**



**Friday, April 23
noon to 1pm**

Everyone is welcome!

**Request Zoom link from
brigandt@ualberta.ca**

MST – Mediating Science and Technology

is a Signature Area of Research of the Faculty of Arts

Solomon Hajramezan is an MA student in History & Classics.

His research examines the role of imagination in the achievement of spaceflight. Fictional, extrapolative, and popular works on space travel often offered visions of interplanetary adventure, and forecasted humanity's leap into space before the necessary theory and technology had been fully developed. Solomon thus investigates how these imaginative and popular conceptions of spaceflight helped influence the rise of rocketry, astronautics, and the ultimate realization of space travel in the United States between 1899 and 1969.

Angela Wilson is a Ph.D. student in Sociology.

Her research focuses on an online cult and its leader who is motivated to spread pseudoscience, misogyny, and white nationalism messaging to support the alt-right political movement. Her research combines cultic theory with online social network analysis to understand indoctrination into online cults or cult-like groups. The rise of conspiracy theories, misinformation, and hate spread by the far-right online has real-life consequences. Using the understanding gained from cultic studies to online interactions is essential to understanding and preventing adverse offline effects from online interactions.

Ariel Kroon is a PhD student in English and Film Studies.

She studies the imagined responses to crisis in post-apocalyptic science fiction (SF) narratives published in Canada between 1948 and 1989, and their similarities to and differences from the more popular (Americanized) concept of survival. Ariel's project analyses the development of Canadian and American SF, especially as distinctly different reflections of the settler experience of Turtle Island, and explores how the goal of humanity's future survival often functions as the reason for sociopolitical repression in the present.

