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Editor Nicholas Campion

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Editorial: Cosmic Explorations

This issue of *Culture and Cosmos* contains an anthology of papers, originally presented at ‘Cosmic Explorations: at the Intersection of Science, Space, Art, and Culture’, the eleventh Conference on the Inspiration of Astronomical Phenomena (INSAPXI).¹ The conference was held at Caltech, Pasadena, on September 20-23 2023.² Publication therefore represents the fruits of a collaboration between the INSAP conferences and the University of Wales Trinity Saint David (UWTSU), the Sophia Centre Press, *Culture and Cosmos*, and Caltech and its co-organisers and sponsors, including The Center for Data Driven Discovery (CD3), the Astronomy Department, and the Einstein papers project at Caltech, the Griffith Observatory and the Griffith Observatory foundation, the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, the Art Centre College of design, the Caltech Optical Observatories and the Carnegie Observatories

As journal editor I would like to thank Valerie Shrimplin, art historian, Chair of the INSAP International Executive Committee and former Registrar and Secretary of Gresham College, and S. George Djorgovski, Professor of Astronomy and Data Science; Director, Center for Data Driven Discovery at Caltech, and Chair of the Local Organising Committee, for

¹ Cosmic Explorations: at the Intersection of Science, Space, Art, and Culture’, <https://sites.astro.caltech.edu/cosmexp/index.html>; The Conferences on the Inspiration of Astronomical Phenomena, <https://insap.org/>.

² For Caltech see <https://www.caltech.edu/>.

their roles in making the conference a great success.³ I would also like to thank my three co-editors, Valerie Shrimplin, John Hatch, Associate Professor in Art History and Theory at Western University, London, Canada, and Chris Impey, University Distinguished Professor and Associate Dean of the College of Science at the University of Arizona. I stress the organisers' and editors' various academic credentials because they bear witness to INSAP's interdisciplinary origins and ongoing mission.

The University of Wales Trinity Saint David has a long association with INSAP via both *Culture and Cosmos* and the University's Sophia Centre for the Study of Cosmology in Culture.⁴ In its previous incarnation at Bath Spa University the Sophia Centre sponsored INSAPIV at Magdalen College, Oxford, in 2003, while at UWTSD it sponsored INSAPVII at the Bath Royal Literary and Scientific Society in Bath in 2010, and INSAPIX at Gresham College, London, in 2015.⁵ The current volume is the fourth INSAP conference anthology published through the Sophia Centre. The INSAPIV papers are available online as *Culture and Cosmos*, Vol. 8, no 1 and 2 (2004).⁶ The INSAPVII anthology is available online as *Culture and Cosmos*, Vol. 16, no 1 and 2 (2012).⁷ The INSAPIX anthology was published as a book, *Imagining Other Worlds*, by the Sophia Centre Press.⁸

The association with INSAP and its various partners represents a significant contribution both to the University of Wales Trinity Saint David's global presence, and to the Sophia Centre's research culture and impact. We welcome the opportunity to publish this selected anthology of INSAPXI conference papers.

**Nicholas Campion,
University of Wales Trinity Saint David.**

³ Valerie Shrimplin, <https://www.valerieshrimplin.com/>;

S. George Djorgovski, <https://www.pma.caltech.edu/people/george-djorgovski>.

⁴ For the Sophia Centre see the Sophia Project, <http://sophia-project.net/>.

⁵ For the INSAPIX conference page see <http://sophia-project.net/conferences/insapix/>; and for the programme booklet see <https://insap.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/insap-programme-booklet-7-aug-2015-innards-no-logos.pdf>.

⁶ *Culture and Cosmos*, Vol. 8, no 1 and 2, <https://www.cultureandcosmos.org/issues/vol8.php>

⁷ *Culture and Cosmos*, Vol. 16, no 1 and 2, <https://www.cultureandcosmos.org/issues/vol16.php> [accessed 21 April 2024].

⁸ Nicholas Campion, and Chris Impey (eds), *Imagining Other Worlds* (Lampeter: Sophia Centre Press, 2018).