

# JENNIFER K. LEVASSEUR, PhD

W: 202-633-2429; levasseurj@si.edu

## EDUCATION

**PhD:** History, earned December 2014

George Mason University, Fairfax, VA

**Master of Arts:** American Studies, earned May 2002

George Washington University, Washington, D.C.

**Bachelor of Arts:** History, earned May 1999

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

## WORK EXPERIENCE

### **Smithsonian Institution, National Air and Space Museum**

Museum Curator, Space History Department, July 2002 to present

- Responsible curator for the Space Shuttle, International Space Station, human spaceflight cameras, and chronographs collections
- Curator, *Outside the Spacecraft* exhibition, celebrated 50 years of spacewalking (January-June 2015),
- Curator, *Moving Beyond Earth* (2009-2022), exhibition related to space shuttle/ISS/Artemis programs,
- Assistant Curator, *One World Connected* exhibition on globalization (2017-present),
- Program Committee chair/organizer, Mutual Concerns of Air and Space Museums conference,
- Voting Member, NASM Collections Committee,
- Steering Committee Member, Smithsonian Material Culture Forum
- Member, History Committee, American Astronautical Society
- Member, Eugene Emme Book Award Committee, American Astronautical Society

### **Smithsonian Institution, National Portrait Gallery**

Museum Technician, Department of Photographs, June 2001 to July 2002

- Cataloged recent acquisitions,
- Conducted biographical research on subjects and photographers,
- Participated in research and analysis of potential acquisitions.

## PUBLICATIONS

- *Through Astronaut Eyes: Photographing Early Human Spaceflight* (West Lafayette: Purdue University Press, 2020)
- *International Space Station* [Level 3 children's book] (Readerlink/Silver Dolphin, 2022)
- *A is for Astronaut, Write and Wipe Activity Book* [popular children's book] (Readerlink/Silver Dolphin, 2022)
- *A is for Astronaut* [popular children's book], (Readerlink/Silver Dolphin/Printers Row, 2021)
- "Brewed in Space – Sipping Java in Zero-G," in *Cosmos Coffee*, edited by Jahreis, Melanie et al. (Munich: Deutsches Museum, 2019), p. 184-191.

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- “The Moon through the eyes of the Apollo astronauts,” in *Moonstruck*, Marek Kukula et al, eds., London: HarperCollins, 2019; p. 122-125.
- “Hasselblad Camera, Apollo 17,” in *Apollo to the Moon: A History in 50 Objects*, edited by Teasel Muir-Harmony (Washington: National Geographic, 2018), p. 156-159.
- “Seeing Earth: A New Look at the Apollo 8 *Earthrise* Photograph,” *Quest*, 16 (3): p. 24-33.
- Seven credited essays in *After Sputnik: 50 Years of the Space Age*, Martin Collins, ed. (Harper Collins, April 2007).

### SELECTED PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

- “An Astronaut-Eye View of Changing Urban Development,” Aerial Spatial Revolution in Architecture and Urbanism Conference (invited talk), University of Applied Sciences and Arts of Southern Switzerland and the Accademia di Architettura di Mendrisio, sponsored by the Swiss National Science Foundation, May 2022.
- “Celebrating a Permanent Human Presence: 20(+) Years of the ISS,” History of Science Society Annual Meeting (virtual), November 2021.
- “Adventures in Debunking Tang, Ice Cream, and Other Astronaut Equipment,” Smithsonian Material Culture Forum, Washington, DC, January 21, 2020
- “Through Astronaut Eyes: Images and Memory of Early Human Spaceflight,” NASM Contemporary History Colloquium, Washington, DC, November 13, 2019
- “Photographing the Moon: An Evening with Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum Curators,” October 3, 2019, National Gallery of Art
- “Competing for Time: Collecting and Curating Astronaut Chronographs.” PCA/ACA Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, April 18, 2019.
- “Eyes on High: How Astronauts Attempt to Intervene through Images,” Cultural Studies Association Annual Meeting, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA; June 2, 2018
- “When Seconds Count: Provenance and Astronaut Personal Timekeeping Devices,” Smithsonian Material Culture Forum, Washington, DC, May 2018.
- “Possessing Time: A Narrative of Astronauts, a Museum, and the Significance of Timekeeping Device Ownership,” Material Culture Symposium for Emerging Scholars, Winterthur Museum/University of Delaware, Wilmington, DE, April 23, 2016.
- “The Astronaut “Selfie:” Part of a Fad or Part of Tradition?” Mid-Atlantic Popular & American Culture Association Annual Meeting, November 5, 2015, Philadelphia, PA.
- “Camera as National Icon? A Swedish and American Story,” Artefacts, October 2012, Edinburgh, Scotland.
- “NASA and Hasselblad: Government as Consumer,” International Committee for the History of Technology, Glasgow, Scotland, August 6, 2011.
- ““Here’s the Earth Coming Up”: Analysis of the Apollo 8 *Earthrise* Photograph,” Society for the History of Technology, Lisbon, Portugal, October 2008.

### AWARDS

- Peer Award, Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum, 2007