



Emigrating Beyond Earth: Human Adaptation and Space Colonization (Springer Praxis Books)

By Cameron M Smith, Evan T. Davies

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Emigrating Beyond Earth puts space colonization into the context of human evolution. Rather than focusing on the technologies and strategies needed to colonize space, the authors examine the human dimensions of space colonization, from genetics to cultural change. In this approach, space colonization is shown to be a natural continuation of the human species' 4 million-year legacy of adaptation to difficult new environments. The authors describe what can be learned from the evolutionary process to make space colonization more likely to succeed, and present examples from the history of human expansion into new environments -- including the astounding case of the prehistoric settlement of the upper colonization of the Pacific islands around 3,000 years ago -- to show that space colonization will be no more about rockets and robots than Pacific colonization was about sailing, but, instead, a natural and worthwhile continuation of human adaptation over time.

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Editorial Review

Review

From the book reviews:

“This book would be a good introduction to the idea of space colonization for those who otherwise might consider it as an utopian idea while reading about the technologies necessary for transporting hundreds of people to distant locations in the Solar System and possibly terraforming a planet. ‘Emigrating Beyond Earth’ shows it all more in a way that’s easily understandable and logical without too much previous knowledge.” (Kadri Tinn, Astromadness.com, September, 2014)

“A basic premise of this work is that ‘human migration into space will be the continuation of the natural process of evolution.’ ... the authors examine the pros and cons of colonization and conclude that it both can and should be attempted. To support their case, they note some potential catastrophes that could lead to the extinction of humans, and believe that space colonization may be necessary for the survival of the human species. ... Summing Up: Recommended. Lower- and upper-division undergraduates and general readers.” (T. Barker, Choice, Vol. 50 (6), February, 2013)

From the Back Cover

For four million years humankind has been actively expanding geographically and in doing so has adapted to a wide variety of hostile environments. Now we are looking towards the ultimate adaptation - the colonization of space. *Emigrating Beyond Earth* illustrates that this is not a technocratic endeavor, but a natural continuation of human evolution; a journey not just for the engineer and rocket scientist, but for everyman. Based on the most current understanding of our universe, human adaptation and evolution, the authors explain why space colonization must be planned as an adaptation to, rather than the conquest of, space.

Emigrating Beyond Earth argues that space colonization is an insurance policy for our species, and that it isn't about rockets and robots, it's about humans doing what we've been doing for four million years: finding new places and new ways to live.

Applying a unique anthropological approach, the authors outline a framework for continued human space exploration and offer a glimpse of a possible human future involving interstellar travel and settlement of worlds beyond our own.

About the Author

Dr. Cameron M. Smith, Ph.D. teaches human evolution and prehistory at the Department of Anthropology at Portland State University in Oregon. His professional training began as a student of Harvard University's early human archaeology field school at the Leakey research station in northern Kenya. After a year at the University of London's Institute of Archaeology, Dr. Smith earned a Joint Honors BA in Anthropology and Archaeology and Masters and Doctoral degrees in the USA and Canada. His courses emphasize adaptation and evolution as structuring facts of human prehistory. Dr. Smith has been widely published in both scientific journals and popular science magazines, including the *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*,

Structure and Dynamics, The Journal of Field Archaeology, Scientific American MIND, Evolution Education and Outreach, Archaeology and Spaceflight. He is the co-author of *The Top Ten Myths About Evolution* (Prometheus, 2005) -- endorsed by the National Center for Science Education and the American Library Association -- and author of *The Fact of Evolution* (Prometheus, 2011), recently selected for the *Scientific American Book Club*. Evan T. Davies, PhD, began his professional career as an archaeological and geographical fieldworker. He has taught anthropology at Rice University and the University of Houston and, with Dr. Smith, coauthored *Anthropology for Dummies* (Wiley 2008).

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Randall Yang:

The guide with title *Emigrating Beyond Earth: Human Adaptation and Space Colonization* (Springer Praxis Books) includes a lot of information that you can understand it. You can get a lot of benefit after read this book. This particular book exist new knowledge the information that exist in this book represented the condition of the world now. That is important to yo7u to know how the improvement of the world. This particular book will bring you in new era of the the positive effect. You can read the e-book on your own smart phone, so you can read the idea anywhere you want.

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People live in this new morning of lifestyle always try to and must have the spare time or they will get lot of stress from both day to day life and work. So , when we ask do people have time, we will say absolutely sure. People is human not just a robot. Then we question again, what kind of activity are there when the spare time coming to you of course your answer will certainly unlimited right. Then do you ever try this one, reading publications. It can be your alternative within spending your spare time, the book you have read will be *Emigrating Beyond Earth: Human Adaptation and Space Colonization* (Springer Praxis Books).

Janet Steele:

Emigrating Beyond Earth: Human Adaptation and Space Colonization (Springer Praxis Books) can be one of your basic books that are good idea. All of us recommend that straight away because this book has good vocabulary that may increase your knowledge in vocab, easy to understand, bit entertaining but nevertheless delivering the information. The writer giving his/her effort to set every word into joy arrangement in writing *Emigrating Beyond Earth: Human Adaptation and Space Colonization* (Springer Praxis Books) yet doesn't forget the main position, giving the reader the hottest and based confirm resource details that maybe you can be among it. This great information can certainly drawn you into completely new stage of crucial thinking.

Jewell Brundage:

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