

Planetary Protection and Planetary Defense

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Observing the sky is often driven by a desire to protecting the world from potential external harm. This lecture will introduce the two domains of Planetary Protection (forward & backward contamination) and of Planetary Defense (how would the world protect itself from an asteroid impact threat) and explore the ways by which international astronomical decision-making structures observe and prepare for potential natural space threats.

Prof. Alissa J. Haddaji is a faculty researcher and lecturer in Space Law, Policy and Ethics at Harvard University & Harvard Law School. She is the founder & president of the Space Consortium at Harvard & MIT, and of Space Week at Harvard. Internationally, Prof. Haddaji leads the coordination of the United Nations-mandated Space Mission Planning Advisory Group (SMPAG) Legal Working Group on Planetary Defense, is the Vice-Chair of the International Astronautical Federation's Near Earth Object & Planetary Defense committee and is a United Nations Space4Women mentor. Previously to her Planetary Defense work, Prof. Haddaji was a senior researcher in Space Economics at Harvard Business School and the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR)'s Planetary Protection Project Officer.

