

# Udall Center Fellows Program

## Spring 2024 Talk Series



Join us for a Udall Center Fellows Talk by:

**Chris Impey**, 2023-24 Udall Center Fellow

Distinguished Professor, Dept. of Astronomy, College of Science

**Unbound: Ethics, Law, Sustainability, and the New Space Race**

**Thursday, Feb. 29, 2024**  
**12:00-1:30 PM (MST)**  
(Lunch Provided)

**Udall Center for Studies in Public Policy**  
**Conference Room**

803 E. First St., Tucson, AZ 85719

Parking is available on a first-come first-served basis in the small lot east off of Euclid, just north of 1<sup>st</sup> Street. [Click here for a map](#)

Prof. [Chris Impey](#) will be presenting his work as a Udall Center Fellow, followed by a question-and-answer session with attendees. The [Udall Center Fellows Program](#) offers a semester off from normal teaching to allow for creative scholarship and pursuit of funds to further the Fellow's research.

We are witnessing a new space race. A half-century after the last Moon landing, and after a decade during which the United States could not launch its own astronauts into Earth's orbit, there is new energy in space activity. China has huge ambitions to rival or eclipse America as the major space power, and other countries are developing space programs. However, perhaps the greatest excitement attaches to the entrepreneurs who are trying to create a new business model for space travel based initially on tourism, and eventually, on colonizing the Moon and Mars and harvesting resources from asteroids. This talk will present a snapshot of the new space race and the rich men behind it, and look at some of the ethical and legal issues raised by this activity. The methodology is to consider the stated ambitions of the men leading private space companies, compare and contrast the space endeavor with earlier episodes of exploration and transportation innovation, review the regulatory environment for outer space, and consider two divergent scenarios for the future. Opinions are divided on whether commercial space flight is an expensive indulgence or potentially a way to find sustainability solutions for our life on Earth. It is concluded that the new space race can be characterized as unbounded: in ambition, in terms of laws and regulations, and in terms of ethical constraints on the activity.

**Lunch will be provided, but space is limited! Please register to attend by February 26<sup>th</sup>.**

**RSVP TO ATTEND**

Please contact Molli Bryson at [mollic@arizona.edu](mailto:mollic@arizona.edu) for questions or accommodations.

Learn more about the Udall Center Fellows Program here:  
[udallcenter.arizona.edu/udall-center-fellows-program](https://udallcenter.arizona.edu/udall-center-fellows-program)