

Edited by
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OBSERVING THE EARTH FROM SPACE

**SPACE DATA - SOCIAL AND POLITICAL
STAKES**

DUNOD

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FOREWORD

This book written under the editorial supervision of Michel Avignon, Cathy Dubois and Philippe Escudier is the result of a collective project undertaken at the French Space Agency (CNES) by Michel Avignon and Cathy Dubois during a day-long seminar devoted to satellite data in November 2010. They continued working on it with Philippe Escudier while designing and facilitating the seminar “Observer la Terre depuis l’espace” (Observing the Earth from space) at the “Conservatoire Nationale des Arts et Métiers” (CNAM) under the auspices of the “laboratoire Histoire des Technosciences en société” (HT2S).

The 2010 workshop gave them the opportunity to sketch out the issues dealt with in this book. These were then analysed in more depth in the research programme on “Espace, innovation, société” (Space, innovation, society) through a partnership between CNES and researchers from various laboratories: the “Groupe de sociologie pragmatique et réflexive” (GSPR) de l’École des hautes études en sciences sociales, (EHESS) the “laboratoire Printemps at the Versailles Saint-Quentin University”, the “Centre Alexandre Koyré” of the CNRS (French centre for scientific research) and also researchers from organisational and management studies at “l’École des mines”, at “l’École polytechnique” and at the Paris-Créteil University.

Some of the ideas presented in the book were discussed with participants at the seminar during sessions which took place at the CNAM from March 2013 to March 2014 and during the five sessions of the workshop on “Valeurs du spatial pour la société” (Space values for society) held at CNES from July 2012 to May 2014.

Each chapter was written by one, two or three authors.

The book was translated into English by a team of translators from Coup de Puce Expansion, under the supervision of Michel Avignon and Cathy Dubois.

- For the first chapter, Isabelle Sourbès-Verger drew on research that she had been doing for more than 20 years on space activities around the world. [English translation by John Kerr]
- Chapter 2 was written by Michel Avignon with additional material by Philippe Escudier. [English translation by Ian Margo]
- Chapter 3 was written by Gemma Cirac Claveras and then enhanced through several discussions with Michel Avignon, Isabelle Sourbès-Verger and Cathy Dubois. [English translation by Chris Collister]
- Chapter 4 was written by Cathy Dubois following the presentation of Hélène de Boissezon in the CNAM seminar on 20 June 2013 and which was based on the work done by the International Charter on Space and Major Disasters and that of the *KAL-Haïti* project; research by Arnaud Saint-Martin on the Charter and by Flore Guiffault on *KAL-Haïti* have been drawn on to a great extent for this chapter. [English translation by John Kerr]
- Chapter 5 was written by Philippe Escudier and Cathy Dubois, with the help of Selma Cherchali at CNES, and that of Catherine Freyssinet and Bertrand Coirond at Société Artelia. [English translation by Cynthia Johnson]
- Chapter 6 was written by Francis Chateauraynaud and Josquin Debaz based on their research on coastal zones. [English translation by Ilona Bossanyi]
- Finally, chapter 7 was written by Jérôme Lamy and Arnaud Saint-Martin who had been working on a socio-political survey for the Copernicus project, GMES. [English translation by Ilona Bossanyi]

It would be impossible to mention all of the personnel at CNES, “Service régional de traitement d’image et de télédétection” (Sertit) and Société CLS whose work has gone into this book. We should particularly like to thank three people at CNES, Pascale Ulte-Guérard, who heads the Earth Observation programmes and also Pierre Ulrich and Michel Delanoue who created the necessary conditions for the book to be written.

Foreword

Delphine Fontanaz, Catherine Proy, Alain Giros, Claire Tinel, Bernard Allenbach, and Bruno Cugny kindly devoted their time to help us find the right information.

Valentina Chambrin spared no efforts to ensure the iconography met the high standards required for publication.

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