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The Influence of Social Movements on Large Research Infrastructures

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Public engagement (PE) initiatives can lead to long-term public support of science. However, most of the real impact of PE initiatives within the context of large-scale science policy is not completely understood. In this talk we will discuss how large grassroots movements led by citizen scientists and space aficionados can have profound effects on public policy. We will also explore the role and relevance of such movements in the policy of large astronomy research infrastructures, present recent cases which illustrate policy decisions involving broader interest groups, and consider new avenues of PE including crowdfunding and crowdsourcing.

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