

KATHERINE SAMMLER (UNIVERSITY OF TWENTE)

NASA's "Space Poop Challenge" and the materiality of bodies in relation

#bodies #discard studies #habitat #materiality #waste

In this talk, the speaker examines the feat of maintaining life in orbit, drawing a sharp focus to the relationship between the human body and its environment. These intimate, engineered spaces evoke a microcosm of urgent planetary concerns surrounding air and water resources, and waste capture, storage, and elimination. Analyzing NASA's "Space Poop Challenge" through critical feminist theory and discard studies, this talk explores deeply entangled relationships between fleshy bodies and planetary bodies, to prompt new discussions of outer space access and gravity politics.

Dr. Katherine G. Sammler is a human geographer, previously trained in physics. They conduct research examining science and politics in the realm of oceans, atmospheres, and outer space considering the role of knowledge, law, and power in defining global commons, access, and environmental justice.

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