

IAF SPACE EDUCATION AND OUTREACH SYMPOSIUM (E1)
Calling Planet Earth - Space Outreach to the General Public (6)

Author: Mr. Benjamin Pothier
Plymouth University, France, Benjamin.pothier@Plymouth.ac.uk

EXPLORER : ANALOG MISSIONS “COMMUNICATING TO THE PUBLIC MY EXPERIENCES AS
AN ANALOGUE ASTRONAUT, A CASE STUDY “

Abstract

The purpose of this paper is to present the experiences of the author, who participated as a professional explorer, researcher and analogue astronaut to three analog Moon mission simulation held :

at HI-SEAS habitat in Hawaii during an ILEWG and ESA mission, in isolation in Iceland on an active volcano to test a NASA/RISD MS-1 suit with the Iceland Space Agency during a 15 days Moon Mission simulation at Lunares habitat in Poland. And in which ways he was able to share his field experiences with various public through newspaper articles and as a TV Host and Film Director of a TV documentary about his experiences.

The author coordinated during the missions human factor anthropological investigations, and acted as the Mission Commander on the latest mission. Both as a TV Host and Documentary Film Director, the author needed to find a balance between public accessibility and communicating the realities of such experiences and their similarities with “Real Space Missions”. Here we show decisions that were made in order to share those experiences with the general public, how analogue missions can work as a gateway to communicate more widely about space exploration to a wide audience, and the paradoxes of being at the same time the subject of an experiment and the Principal Investigator, in front and behind the camera. We present in this paper the results of those investigations and experiences and the lessons learnt in terms of public outreach.