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DO ANALOGUE SPACE RESEARCH FURTHER HUMAN SPACE EXPLORATION? A REVIEW OF
UTILITY AND CALLING FOR HIGH-FIDELITY STANDARDS IN THE ANALOGUE FIELD

Abstract

Recent papers reviewed the utility of analogue space missions from the perspective on geology and human space exploration (Cinelli, 2019 and Shekar et al, 2020). There has been a renaissance of different space analogues, but their added value often remains debateable. The growing interest in the field of analogue missions introduces several perspectives and factors, which make current space analogues highly variable in their approach, objectives, mission design and operations. The lack of a universal requirements between analogies may contribute diminishing the scientific validity and reliability of the research in this field. The fidelity of an analogue mission is closely related to the mission objectives, so it is the pinpoint of realism. High fidelity analogue missions should be at the forefront of the research, as they can more meaningfully inform space exploration.