Dmitry Payson

Space Policy, Economics, and Innovation Leader | Academic Lecturer & Researcher

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Web of Science: h-index 2 (9 publications), ResearcherID GPX-0827-2022

Scopus: h-index 3 (18 publications), Author ID 25638825500

Profile

Dmitry Payson has developed a dual career as a leader in the space industry and governance and as an academic researcher and lecturer. With more than 25 years of experience in space policy, economics, and innovation, he has directed research and innovation centers, contributed to international collaboration frameworks, and held academic appointments in Russia, Israel, and Germany. His trajectory bridges governance and academia, combining institutional leadership with teaching and research on the economics and future of space exploration.

Practical Employment

04.2022–present, Private Consultant, Educational and Infrastructure Development Projects (remote & in-person)

- Curated the new Museum of Transportation project (remote).
- Conducted an early feasibility study for a new Israeli innovation hub.

01.2020–04.2022, Managing Director, Sber Research and Innovation Department, Moscow, Russia

Designed the methodology and led the corporate futuristic foresight vision project.

02.2019–01.2020, Deputy Director, Center for Development of Space Activities JSC, Moscow, Russia

• Proposed amendments to national regulations on licensing space activities, improving conditions for innovative enterprises and start-ups.

06.2017-07.2018, Director, Roscosmos Research and Analysis Center, Moscow, Russia

- Led a feasibility study for the Roscosmos Venture Fund.
- Drafted initial versions of Sphera, a flagship national satellite application program.

08.2014–06.2017, Director, United Rocket and Space Corp. Information and Research Center, Moscow, Russia

- Led supporting research for space industry institutional change.
- Delivered lectures and courses as part of corporate professional development programs.

12.2011–08.2014, Director of Science, Space Technology & Telecom Cluster, Skolkovo Foundation, Moscow, Russia

- Provided incubation and support for more than 100 space startups as part of the first systematic effort to develop a national private space industry.
- Built and maintained the independent expertise system for cluster projects.

01.2005–12.2011, Deputy Department Head, Central Research Institute of Machine Building (TsNIIMash), Korolyov, Russia

- Developed a management-by-boundaries approach to space strategizing, forming the basis for mid-2000s research on future human spaceflight.
- Co-coordinated the Roscosmos/EU/ESA Working Group on space technologies and FP7/Horizon research projects.

Teaching and Research Employment

- 03.2025–08.2025, Senior Fellow, Technical University Dresden
 - Co-developed and launched a survey experiment on public attitudes toward human spaceflight.
- 03.2023–03.2025, Researcher, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
 - Participated in the Israel Science Foundation project "Great Power Rivalry, Transformability
 of Dual-use Technology and the Change of Practices and Processes of Empowerment in the
 Digital Technology Landscape."
- 01.2019-04.2022, Researcher (part-time), Space Research Institute, Moscow, Russia
 - Led the Institute's contribution to background research on outer space resources for the Ministry of Science.
 - Developed and implemented a web-based educational project on the history and practice of space activities (https://tinyurl.com/3ykp9ayf).
- 01.2019–04.2022, Researcher (part-time), Institute for Economic Forecasting, Moscow, Russia
 - Co-authored the Space Economy keynote for the Russian Academy of Sciences annual meeting.
- 09.2018–09.2022, Lecturer (part-time), Space Class High School Project, Moscow–Riga, Latvia
 - Delivered a high school course on the theory, history, and actualities of space exploration.
- 09.2019–12.2021, Associate Professor (part-time), Moscow State University
 - Developed and delivered the Master-level course "Basics of Space Activities."
 - Participated in the university's Space MBA project planning.
- 09.2011-05.2012, Lecturer (part-time), University of People's Friendship, Moscow, Russia
- 09.2010-03.2011, Lecturer (part-time), Moscow Aviation Institute
- 2009–2011, Principal Investigator, Russian Foundation for Basic Research grant
 - Led the project "Methodological problems of institutional development of the system for obtaining and using the results of space activities" (09-08-13688).

Qualifications

Doctor of Science in Economics, Central Economics and Mathematics Institute, Russian Academy of Sciences, 2011

Ph.D. in Satellite Technology, Moscow Aviation Institute, 2003

International Space University Summer Session, Stockholm, 1995

Engineer, Spacecraft Design, Moscow Aviation Institute, 1994

Research Interests

Institutional design and political economy of space activities

Public good theory and public-private partnerships

Development institutions and structural reforms of high-tech industries

Comparative industrial policy in space sectors

Forecast methodology and design

Space history

Key Publications

- Payson, D. Space Industry Ecosystem/In: Oxford Handbook on New Space Economy, ed.by A.D'Costa (planned for 2025)
- Payson, D., Kosenkov I. Russian Space Industry and Space Activities/In: Oxford Handbook on New Space Economy, ed.by A.D'Costa (planned for 2025)
- Payson, D. Public Goods and the Evaluation of Complex Outcomes in Space Exploration (July 21, 2025). Available at SSRN: https://ssrn.com/abstract=5370548
- Paikowsky, D., Payson, D., & Falkov, Y. Orchestrating Power: The Cultural-Institutional Nexus and the Rise of Digital Innovation Ecosystems in Great Power Rivalry // Systems. 2025, 13(8), 643. https://doi.org/10.3390/systems13080643
- Payson, D. New Space and Newest Space // Outer Space Future for Humankind: Issues of Law and Policy. Vol.26 in Essential Ail and Space Law series /The Hague: Eleven, 2021, 31-50. URL: https://www.boomdenhaag.nl/en/webshop/outer-space-future-for-humankind
- Payson, D., Frolov, I. Multi-Level Structure of Theishinm International Space Market and Analysis of Labor Productivity in the Rocket and Space Industry //Cosmic Research. 2020. 58, 3, 218-226. URL: https://www.researchgate.net/publication/341908299_Multi-Level_Structure_of_the_International_Space_Market_and_Analysis_of_Labor_Productivity_in_the_Rocket_and_Space_Industry
- Payson, D., Alifanov, O., Moiseev, I., Vick, C., Woods, D. The Mishin Diaries, A New Significant Primary Source of Space History Information // Acta Astronautica. 2016. 123, 192-199. URL: https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0094576515302551
- Payson, D., Davidian, K. Transition of the Russian rocket and space industry // New Space. 2015. 3, 1, 59-67. URL: https://www.liebertpub.com/doi/10.1089/space.2014.0028
- Harris, A.W., Barucci, M.A., Payson, D. et al. The European Union funded NEOShield project: A global approach to near-Earth object impact threat mitigation //Acta Astronautica. 2012, 90(1), 80–84. doi:https://doi.org/10.1016/j.actaastro.2012.08.026.
- Payson, D., Makarov, Y. Russian Space Programs and Industry: Defining the New Institutions for New Conditions //Space Policy. 2009. 25, 2, 90–98. URL: https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S026596460900023X
- Payson, D., Frolov, I., Bendikov, M. Institutional specifics of the space and nuclear industries' development/ In: Mesoeconomics of Russia: a runaway strategy: monograph / edited by G.B. Kleiner,- Moscow: SCIENCE LIBRARY Publishing House, 2022, 148-190. URL: https://systemeconomics.ru/wp-content/uploads/monografiya_mezoekonomika-rossii_strategiya-razbega.pdf (The Google translation: https://tinyurl.com/2esc3dka)
- Payson, D. Space Activity: Evolution, Organization, Institutions. Moscow: Book House Librocom, 2010, 2nd ed. 2013. (in Russian)

Professional Service

Associate Editor, New Space.

Peer reviewer for New Space and Acta Astronautica.

Full Member, International Academy of Astronautics.

Cultural and Outreach Projects

Director, Mishin Diaries project (transcription and publication of Vasily Mishin's diaries, https://shorturl.at/qy1HA), 2014-2016.

Roscosmos exhibition, UN COPUOS, Vienna, 2007.

Advisor for COSMOS Pavilion museum deployment, 2014–2017.

Transportation Museum projects and temporary exhibitions, since 2023.

Public lectures and outreach on space history and policy.

Additional Skills

Technical Skills: MS Office Suite, MS Project, Figma (Basic), Slack, Graphics Processing Software

Languages: English (Fluent), Russian (Native/Fluent), Hebrew (Beginner), German (Beginner)