
ISABELLE SOURBÈS-VERGER ¹

*Senior Researcher, National Center for Scientific Research,
Space Policy*

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Short Biography

Isabelle Sourbès-Verger is Senior Researcher at the CNRS (National Center for Scientific Research) in Paris. She is one of the few French researchers specialised in the study of outer space activities and related national space policies. History and geography constitute her academic background. After she became a professor, she conducted research about the Geography of Outer Space, dealing with the different forms of occupation of Earth orbits and the corresponding national space policies of the Space Club members.

After working as a Junior Researcher at CNET (National Centre for Telecommunications Studies) during three years, she obtained a permanent position at CNRS in 1988. Since then, she belonged to different CNRS laboratories moving from Imageo (space cartography), to CREST (Centre for Research on Strategy and Technology, Ecole Polytechnique) and LCP (Laboratory on Political Communication as Deputy Director) before joining her current organisation, CAK (specialised in the history of sciences and technologies) as Deputy Director from 2009 to 2014. Through this multifaceted experience, she built up a global approach of the scientific, social science and political dimensions of the space conquest.

Her research focuses on the interface of national public policy and technological ambitions taking into account very different issues such as strategic matters and international security, the impact of public opinion and the role of media as support to space activities. Thus, Europe, Russia, Japan, China and India are the major space powers on which she developed extensive expertise. Using comparative analysis of different national space policies, her research provides an original view on the various models of acquisition and development of national space competences. She is a member of different international networks.

Research Experience

2009 - 2014 Deputy Director Centre Alexandre Koyré, CNRS-EHESS, Paris
2008 Senior Researcher, Centre Alexandre Koyré, CNRS-EHESS, Paris
2004-2008 Deputy Director, Laboratoire Communication et Politique, CNRS, Paris
2002-2004 Senior Researcher, Laboratoire Communication et Politique, CNRS, Paris
2000-2002 Senior Researcher, Fondation for Strategic Research, Paris
1993-2000 Senior Researcher, Center of Research on Strategy and Technology (CREST), Ecole polytechnique
1989-1993 Researcher, IMAGEO, Geography and Cartography Laboratory, CNRS.

Other Experience (since 2000)

2010 - 2012 Scientific Advisor, Centre d'Analyse Stratégique (then Commissariat au Plan),
2009 - 2012 Member of Science for Peace and Security Committee's Advisory Panel on Human and Societal Dynamics (HSD), NATO
2006 Member of the European Space Policy Research and Academic Network, ESPRAN (European Space Policy Institute, Vienna)

1

Date of birth: December 3, 1957. Familial situation : married, one child

Home address: 5 rue Leredde, 75013 Paris. Tél. 33 1 45 82 06 08.

- 2005 Expert in the Space Security Working Group (Mc Gill University, Institute of Air and Space Law).
- 2004 - Member of Space Commission of French Society of Space and Air Law (SFDAS)
- 2003 - 2010 Member of the Scientific Committee of ENSIETA (Brest)
- 2003 Expert on Human Sciences at Délégation Générale pour l'Armement (DGA)
- 2000 - 2008 Member of the Scientific Committee of revue Hermès.

Teaching Experience (since 2000)

- 2010 - Head of Research Seminar, History of Cosmos, EHESS, Paris
- 2003 - 2011 Head of Seminar, Collège Interarmées de Défense/ Ecole de guerre, Paris.
- 2000 - Head of Space Module, Master of Telecommunications and Space, Université de Sceaux
- 2000 - 2008 Visiting Lecturer at International Space University, Strasbourg

Honorific Distinctions

- Chevalier de la Légion d'honneur, 2012
- National Air and Space Academy (France) Medal for the book "L'Espace, nouveau territoire", Belin 2002.

Publications

She has authored or co-authored in French and English three books including The Cambridge Encyclopedia of Space, more than 50 chapters, about 15 research reports and edited two special issues.

The list of publications is included in the complete version of the CV. In French.
