

Western University

Scholarship@Western

Inspiring Minds – A Digital Collection of
Western's Graduate Research, Scholarship and
Creative Activity

Inspiring Minds

November 2022

How can space exploration teams help us prepare for the future of work?

Julia McMenamin

Western University, jmcmenam@uwo.ca

Follow this and additional works at: <https://ir.lib.uwo.ca/inspiringminds>

Citation of this paper:

McMenamin, Julia, "How can space exploration teams help us prepare for the future of work?" (2022). *Inspiring Minds – A Digital Collection of Western's Graduate Research, Scholarship and Creative Activity*. 319.

<https://ir.lib.uwo.ca/inspiringminds/319>

Julia McMenamain

As a teamwork researcher, I want to understand how people collaborate most effectively in a rapidly changing world of work in which teams are increasingly multi-disciplinary, embedded with technology, and working remotely.

To prepare for future challenges, we can look to those working at the edge of what's possible today. Planetary and space exploration takes the combined effort of individuals from many institutions, and diverse areas of expertise, such as robotics and geology. Conducting in-depth interviews with teams engaged in the robotic exploration of remote areas of Earth in preparation for missions to the Moon and Mars, allows me to identify and address gaps in our knowledge of team functioning. What I learn about the challenges faced by these multi-disciplinary teams using rapidly advancing technology across multiple locations, and how they adapt and thrive, will help teams within this unique setting and more broadly as the future of work unfolds.