Official Policy of CSH and Bernoulli Fellows

by Prof. Dr. Kevin Heng, CSH Director
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The Center for Space and Habitability (CSH) established in 2015 and 2016, respectively, the CSH and Bernoulli Fellowships. These research positions are appointed at the postdoctoral level.

1. Each Fellow is granted full intellectual autonomy for the duration of their contracts and may pursue any research topic of interest.

2. Each Fellow is expected to contribute significantly to the intellectual life of the CSH. This involves assuming leadership for organizing the CSH coffee discussions, research lunches, journal clubs, seminar/colloquium series, hosting of visiting researchers, speaker dinners, etc.

3. Each Fellow has two or more academic hosts within the University of Bern, analogous to how the NASA Hubble/Sagan/Einstein Fellows have institutional hosts. However, it is important to note that the academic hosts are not the postdoctoral supervisors of the Fellows. Rather, the academic hosts are available to provide intellectual interaction and discussion if the Fellow chooses to engage them. The Fellows do not have to report their activities to their hosts. It is within the rights of every Fellow to disregard direct orders from their hosts.

4. The CSH Director is the administrative person-in-charge of the Fellows, but he or she is not their academic supervisor. The CSH Director should not micro-manage or instruct a Fellow on their research, unless explicitly asked by a Fellow to do so. The CSH Director should not subsume a Fellow into his or her research group.

5. An exception to Item #3 concerns the use of proprietary data, by a Fellow, that belongs to a researcher or a research group of the University of Bern. Such situations are treated as collaborations and a mutually satisfactory agreement has to be made concerning protocol.

6. Each Fellow is granted an individual research budget that is set by the CSH Director. Each Fellow has full autonomy on how to spend this budget on work travel, computers, publications, inviting collaborators to the University of Bern, etc, as long as each expenditure is consistent with the financial rules of the Space Physics & Planetary Sciences (WP) Division. In case of doubt, each Fellow should consult Irene Buetler, the CSH and WP Comptroller.

7. At the end of every calendar year, each Fellow is required to write an annual report to the CSH Director summarizing their activities for the year. This report should have a maximum of 2 pages and include ongoing research work, publications, talks given and conferences attended. It should also include an itemized table summarizing each expenditure and how much of each Fellow's individual budget has been used. The report is due on 15th December of each year.