



Exploding Stars and the Accelerating Cosmos: Einstein's Blunder Undone

Robert P. Kirshner
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Union Hall, The University of Adelaide
Thursday 19th November 2009
Please be seated by 6:20pm

Synopsis

Recent observations of exploding stars discovered halfway across the universe reveal an astonishing fact: the expansion of the Universe is speeding up! Apparently, the universe is dominated by a mysterious "dark energy" that drives cosmic acceleration. The dark energy may be a modern form of the "cosmological constant" created by Einstein in 1917, but abandoned by Einstein in the 1930s. Robert P. Kirshner, a distinguished astronomer and teacher at Harvard University, explains this astonishing new picture of the universe in a lively, richly illustrated presentation, drawing on his own first-hand account of the discovery.



Speaker

Robert P. Kirshner is an author of over 250 scientific publications, Kirshner has written for *National Geographic*, *Sky & Telescope*, *Natural History*, and *Scientific American* magazines and is a frequent public speaker on science. His award-winning popular-level book *The Extravagant Universe: Exploding Stars, Dark Energy, and the Accelerating Cosmos* is now in paperback and has been translated into 4 languages. At Harvard, Kirshner teaches a large undergraduate course for students who are not concentrating in the sciences called *The Energetic Universe*. Kirshner is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the National Academy of Sciences, and the American Philosophical Society. He recently finished a term as President of the American Astronomical Society. Kirshner received the Caltech Distinguished Alumni Award in 2004. In 2007, Kirshner and his colleagues of the High-Z Supernova Team (led by Professor Brian Schmidt of the ANU and including many of Kirshner's former students and postdocs) shared in the Gruber Prize in Cosmology.

All Welcome

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