The Big Bang – is it true?

Dr Cormac O’Raifeartaigh
Lecturer in Physics, Waterford Institute of Technology

SCHEDULE

University College Cork – Monday 30th January, 12 noon and 2pm
University of Limerick – Tuesday 31st January, 12 noon
NUI Galway – Wednesday 1st February, 12 noon
RDS, Dublin – Thursday 2nd February, 12 noon and 2pm
Queen’s University Belfast – Friday 3rd February, 2pm
IT Carlow – Monday 6th February, 12 noon
Waterford IT – Tuesday 7th February, 12 noon

NASA and ESA. The Crab Nebula derived its name from its appearance in a drawing made by Irish astronomer Lord Rosse in 1844, using a 36-inch telescope.
**Tyndall Lecture for Schools 2012**

**The Big Bang – is it true?**

The Big Bang is one of the best known theories of modern physics, it is a model of the origin of the universe that has important implications for philosophy, religion and society. But is it true? The theory and evidence supporting the big bang model will be explored and the limitations of the model explained in an engaging and interactive presentation. Recent discoveries that have revolutionised our view of the universe will also be discussed.

Cormac O’Raifeartaigh

Cormac O’Raifeartaigh lectures in physics and mathematics at Waterford Institute of Technology. He has a PhD in physics from Trinity College Dublin and is a frequent participant in scientific debates in the Irish media. He writes regularly on physics in newspapers and magazines and is the author of the well-known science blog ANTIMATTER. He has just returned from a position as Research Fellow with the Science, Technology and Society program at Harvard University.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time(s)</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Contact Person</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 30th January</td>
<td>12 noon and 2pm</td>
<td>University College Cork</td>
<td>Susanna Kent/Irene Horne <a href="mailto:s.kent@ucc.ie">s.kent@ucc.ie</a> or <a href="mailto:i.horne@ucc.ie">i.horne@ucc.ie</a> 021 4902013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 31st January</td>
<td>12 noon</td>
<td>University of Limerick</td>
<td>George McClelland <a href="mailto:george.mcclelland@ul.ie">george.mcclelland@ul.ie</a> 061 202469</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 1st February</td>
<td>12 noon</td>
<td>NUI Galway</td>
<td>Nicholas Devaney <a href="mailto:nicholas.devaney@nuigalway.ie">nicholas.devaney@nuigalway.ie</a> 091 493788</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 2nd February</td>
<td>12 noon and 2pm</td>
<td>RDS, Dublin</td>
<td>Karen Sheeran <a href="mailto:karen.sheeran@rds.ie">karen.sheeran@rds.ie</a> 01 2407289</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 3rd February</td>
<td>2pm</td>
<td>Queen’s University Belfast</td>
<td>Robert Bowman <a href="mailto:r.m.bowman@qub.ac.uk">r.m.bowman@qub.ac.uk</a> 028 90973541</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 6th February</td>
<td>12 noon</td>
<td>IT Carlow</td>
<td>Loranne Valley <a href="mailto:VALLELY@itcarlow.ie">VALLELY@itcarlow.ie</a> 059 9175549</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 7th February</td>
<td>12 noon</td>
<td>IT Waterford</td>
<td>Gabriel Gallagher <a href="mailto:GGALLAGHER@wit.ie">GGALLAGHER@wit.ie</a> 051 302645</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Admission**

Reservations should be made for all venues and bookings should be made by telephone or e-mail to the contacts listed above. There is no admission charge for this lecture but it is extremely important that tickets are booked for class groups in advance. Cancellations should be made at least 48 hours in advance to facilitate others who may be on waiting lists for tickets.

**Talk duration** 1 hour

**Audience** 15-18 year olds

**A word about our sponsors**

Our thanks to the Royal Dublin Society, IT Waterford, IT Carlow, Queens University Belfast, University College Cork, NUI Galway and the University of Limerick who have assisted the organisers through pre-publicity and provision of venues.