

Einstein, Hawking and the Big Bang

Summary:

This talk will present a brief history of modern cosmology, from the first static models of the cosmos to the discovery of the expanding universe, from the great debate between ‘big bang’ and ‘steady-state’ cosmologies to today’s Λ -CDM model of the universe. We consider in particular the pioneering contributions of theoreticians such as Albert Einstein and Stephen Hawking, and the interplay of theory and experiment over one hundred years of cosmology.

Bio:

Cormac O’Raifeartaigh lectures in physics at [Waterford Institute of Technology](#) and is a Visiting Associate Professor at University College Dublin. A solid-state physicist by training, he is best known for several original contributions to the study of the history and philosophy of 20th century science. He was elected a Fellow of the [Royal Astronomical Society](#) in 2014 and a Fellow of the UK [Institute of Physics](#) in 2016.