

The Big Bang: is it true?

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The ‘big bang’ model of the evolution of the universe is one of the most famous theories of modern science. But is it just a model? The theory and evidence supporting the ‘big bang’ hypothesis will be briefly reviewed in this talk, and the limitations of the model explained. Recent discoveries that have revolutionized our view of the universe will also be discussed.

Cormac O’Raifeartaigh lectures in physics at Waterford Institute of Technology and is a Visiting Associate Professor at the School of Physics at University College Dublin. A solid-state physicist by training, he is best known for several 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 Institute of Physics in 2016. He is a Research Associate at the School of Theoretical Physics of the Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies and was a Research Fellow at the Science, Technology and Society Program at Harvard University in 2010-2011.