Abstract:
The James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) is a general-purpose, large (6.5 m),
cold (<50 K) infrared-optimized space observatory with unprecedented
sensitivity as well as advanced spectroscopic capabilities.  JWST is being built
now toward launch in 2018.  All mirrors are finished, two of four science
instruments delivered, and integration and test is underway.  I'll discuss the
role that JWST can play in advancing our understanding of the supermassive
black holes (SMBHs) that lurk in the hearts of galaxies, and in particular those
minority of nuclear black holes that are actively accreting, termed active
galactic nuclei or AGN.