

Boston University Physics Colloquium

40th Annual Edmonds Distinguished Lecture



Lessons for Scientists and Sociologists from Observing the Universe's Big Bang Expansion

When I started working on the theory of the expanding universe in 1960, it was what sociologists termed a "social construction". Although Einstein's general theory of relativity had passed only three tests, it was a standard and accepted part of physics presented in the best advanced textbooks. Those tests were of low precision, and one eventually proved to be wrong by a factor of four. Now that many sensitive observations have confirmed the predictions of expansion theory, it has become a "physical construction". However, scientists and sociologists of science still deal with social constructions, such as what was the universe doing before it was expanding?

Jim Peebles

Nobel Laureate 2019

Albert Einstein Professor of Science,, Emeritus

Princeton University

Tuesday, May 3, 2022

Rajen Kilachand Center, Room 101

610 Commonwealth Avenue

3:00 PM Opening Reception

3:30 PM Lecture

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