

THE UCR CENTER FOR EXPERIMENTAL COSMOLOGY & INSTRUMENTATION PRESENTS:

FRONTIERS OF COSMOLOGY LECTURE

Let There Be Light: The Observational Quest for the First Galaxies

The first billion years after the Big Bang represents the final observational frontier in assembling a complete picture of cosmic history. During this period early stars and galaxies formed and the universe became bathed in light for the first time. Hydrogen clouds in the space in between galaxies transformed from an atomic gas to a fully ionized medium consisting of detached protons and electrons. How and when did this 'cosmic reionization' occur? Were early star-forming galaxies the primary agents and did radiation from infalling material into supermassive black holes contribute? Professor Ellis will review the rapid progress being made with NASA's James Webb Space Telescope which raises the exciting prospect that we will soon be able to directly witness this dramatic period when the universe emerged from darkness and the first galaxies began to shine. The motivation is fundamental: the origin of starlight begins the process of chemical evolution which ultimately leads to our own existence in this remarkable universe.

Featuring introductory remarks by Chancellor S. Jack Hu and CNAS Dean Peter Atkinson

This event is free and open to the public. The local community, and middle and high school students, are strongly encouraged to attend.



Special Speaker:
Richard Ellis

*Professor of Astrophysics
University College London
Recipient, 2023 Gruber Prize in Cosmology*



UC RIVERSIDE | Physics & Astronomy



Friday, November 6, 2026
UCR University Theatre
5:00 PM: Reception
6:00 PM: Lecture

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