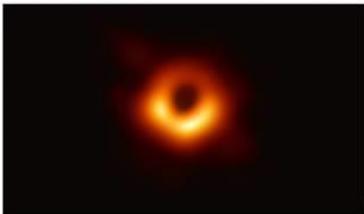


EARLY EVENING LECTURE

Professor Roger Davies

Tuesday 9 February 2021 at 7.00pm

*Black holes, eclipses and the 2020 Nobel Prize
in Physics*



Caption: In 2019 an international team of radio astronomers led by Professor Heino Falcke at Radboud University in Nijmegen in the Netherlands used a global array of radio telescopes, 'The Event Horizon Telescope', to make this image of the shadow of a black hole in the centre of one of nearest radio galaxies. Credit: EHT



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Professor Roger Davies is a British astronomer and cosmologist, one of the so-called Seven Samurai collaboration who discovered an apparent concentration of mass in the Universe called the Great Attractor. He is the first holder of Philip Wetton Chair in Astrophysics and a Student at Christ Church. His research interests centre on cosmology and how galaxies form and evolve. Since 2014 he has been the founding Director of the Oxford Centre for Astrophysical Surveys which is funded by the Hintze Family Charitable Foundation. He read Physics as an undergraduate at UCL and did a PhD at the Institute of Astronomy and Churchill College, Cambridge.

The 2020 Nobel Prize for Physics was awarded for work on black holes to Sir Roger Penrose, Professor Reinhard Genzel & Professor Andrea Ghez. It was particularly exciting for Oxford University scientists to see our colleague in mathematics, Roger Penrose, recognised for demonstrating that Einstein's General Theory of Relativity predicted the formation of black holes. The first test of General Relativity was made by measuring just over a century ago by measuring the bending of light rays during at the 1919 total Solar eclipse.

Professor Davies will discuss how Genzel & Ghez were able to demonstrate the existence of a supermassive black hole at the heart of our galaxy by making measurements, over more than two decades, of the positions and motions of the stars orbiting around the centre of our Milky Way.

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