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ARNOLD SOMMERFELD
CENTER FOR THEORETICAL PHYSICS



Arnold Sommerfeld Lecture Series

Professor Licia Verde

University of Barcelona

Public Lecture:

Precision Cosmology and the Universe's Expansion Rate

Human curiosity has taken us across oceans, around the Earth, and into space. But how can we explore the Universe beyond our reach? Light is our cosmic messenger: by observing distant galaxies, we can look back in time and reconstruct billions of years of cosmic history.

In just a century, astronomers have gone from discovering that the Universe is expanding to measuring its properties with astonishing precision. We now have a remarkably successful picture of its history, from the Big Bang to the present day. Yet one apparently simple question remains surprisingly difficult: how fast is the Universe expanding today?

Different ways of answering this question, from exploding stars to the faint afterglow of the Big Bang, do not quite agree.

In this talk, I will take you on a journey through the discoveries, ingenious measurements, and occasional wrong turns that brought us here, and explore what this disagreement might reveal about our understanding of the Universe.

Tuesday, October 20, 2026, 17:15 h, Room B052, Theresienstr. 39, LMU