

ASSA COSMOLOGY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

2023

On taking the reins as Cosmology Director in 2023, we continued with the “History of the Universe” series of 17 You Tube videos which the Hermanus Centre had been following:

History of the Universe - series of 17 videos

1. What Was The Big Bang?
2. What Was The Universe Like IMMEDIATELY After The Big Bang?
3. Why Did Time Start Going Forward?
4. Is There One All Powerful SUPERFORCE Controlling The Universe?
5. Why Is The Universe The Same Everywhere? - **Dec 2022**
6. What Really Is Everything? - **Feb 2023 cancelled due to Load Shedding**

Mon 13 - Mar Member attendees: 6; visitor attendees: 1; member%: 10%

7. Why Is The Universe Perfect? -

Mon 03 - Apr Member attendees: 9; visitor attendees: 1; member%: 11%

8. Why Is The Universe Out Of Balance? -

Thu 04 - May Member attendees: 9; visitor attendees: 2; member%: 11%

9. Where Did Dark Matter And Dark Energy Come From? -

Tue 13 - Jun Member attendees: 7; visitor attendees: 1; member%: 9%

10. Why Is Gravity So Weak? -

Mon 03 - Jul Member attendees: 13; visitor attendees: 2; member%: 16%

11. Was The Universe Born From Nothing?
12. Was Our Current Universe Already Inevitable At One Second Old?
13. How Many Multiverses Are There?
14. What Happened To All The Neutrinos?
15. What Was The First Black Hole?
16. Where Are All The Hidden Dimensions?
17. What Actually Are Space And Time?

So, No.'s 6 – 10 are the 5 sessions we have had this year so far under the ASSA umbrella.

The History of the Universe series was chosen because it gives a very approachable summary of most of the very latest findings on standard theories of cosmology.

After viewing the video online (with attendance always being via Zoom), I would often follow with a short video highlighting a contrary view to the standard views expounded in the main video (always trying to stick to scientifically sound presenters), and a lively discussion normally ensues.

While Cosmology can perhaps be considered to be a rather specialised topic for our typical membership to swallow, we always try to present the subject matter in a layman friendly language and approachable manner suitable to the tastes of the majority of our membership. Despite this the attendance numbers are a little disappointing, in particular from non-Hermanus ASSA members.

In the ensuing sessions we will probably send out a short questionnaire aimed at better determining the Cosmology related needs of the membership, and to get an indication of the desired direction to be taken once the video series is finished.

Regards

Derek Duckitt

ASSA Cosmology Director

Hermanus Centre Chair