

Astronomical Society of Southern Africa



Section Director: Derek Duckitt

Activity areas: Cosmology and Astrophysics

Specialists & Collaborators: Maciej Soltynski (Cosmology, Astrophysics), Bruce Bassett (Cosmology), Dr. Ian Glass (Astrophysics), Bruce Dickson (Cosmology, Astrophysics).

ASSA COSMOLOGY DIRECTOR'S REPORT - AUG 2026

Since the 2025 Cosmology report we have continued mostly with the History of the Universe video series:

History of the Universe series

- 05-Aug-2025 ep 31 "Why Shouldn't The Universe Exist?"
- 02-Sep-2025 ep 32 "What is (Almost) Everything Made Of?" parts 1-3
- 07-Oct-2025 ep 32 "What is (Almost) Everything Made Of?" parts 4-6
- 04-Nov-2025 ep 34 "Time - When Actually Are You?"
- 02-Dec-2025 ep 35, "What is the biggest thing in the Universe?"
- 03-Feb-2026 ep 36 "The Mystery of Free Will - Can You Change the Future?"
- 03-Mar-2026 ep 37, "What was there before the Universe?"
- 07-Apr-2026 ep 38, "What is Reality?" pt 1-3
- 05-May-2026 ep 38, "What is Reality?" pt 4-6
- 02-Jun-2026 ep 38 - "What is Reality?" pts 7-8

Other

- 07-Jul-2026 Modern Physics is Forcing us to Rethink Existence - presenter Michelle Taller
- 04-Aug-2026 Modern Physics is Forcing us to Rethink Existence part 2 - presenter Michelle Taller

We follow the videos in a Zoom meeting (advertised to all ASSA members) and record the discussion afterwards, which gets uploaded to the Hermanus YouTube channel. The sessions are followed mostly by the same group of attendees (with an occasional new person joining), who seem to enjoy it, judging by the lively discussions afterwards.

Regards

Derek Duckitt

ASSA Cosmology Director

Hermanus Centre Chair