

ICTS MONTHLY COLLOQUIUM HOW WELL DO WE KNOW OUR UNIVERSE?

This talk will begin with a brief review of the way astronomy grew up from ancient times to its modern twentieth century form. The modern version of cosmology started with excellent credentials such as the expanding universe, primordial nucleosynthesis and the microwave background. However, as will be argued towards the end, the subject is straying away from the scientific path into more and more speculative directions. A plea will be made for devoting some work to the topic of alternative cosmologies.

JAYANT NARLIKAR

Jayant Narlikar was born in 1938 in Kolhapur but received his early education in the campus of Banaras Hindu University where his father V.V. Narlikar was the Head of the Mathematics Department. After a bright career in Theoretical Astronomy in Cambridge, Jayant Narlikar returned to India in 1972, to set up the Theoretical Astrophysics Group at the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research. Later in 1988 he took up the responsibility of creating the Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics at Pune. Narlikar's research work has been in alternative cosmologies, action at a distance and quantum cosmology. He is also interested in science popularisation.

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