

# UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT DALLAS - DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS

## PHYSICS COLLOQUIUM

<http://www.utdallas.edu/dept/physics/colloquia1.htm>

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Tuesday, October 12, 2004; Kusch Auditorium, FN 2.102  
Networking 3:30-4:00 PM; Presentation 4:00-5:00 PM

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### COSMOLOGY TODAY

**Professor Wolfgang Rindler**

*Department of Physics, UTD*

Cosmology became a science (as opposed to pure speculation) only around 1920, when a new generation of giant telescopes opened up vast new reaches of the cosmos, and Einstein's general relativity was able to supply the necessary theory. In the last twenty years a new spurt of progress has occurred, and some old questions have been answered. For example, our expansion seems to be accelerating and our geometry flat. Thus our universe seems to be in for an ultimate cold death, and a finite universe, curved back on itself like the surface of a sphere, seems ruled out. The large-scale distribution of galaxies is far more "messy" than had previously been thought. Einstein's lambda turn has made a come-back. Dark matter and dark energy are open puzzles. And the Anthropic Principle has emerged as a fascinating and optimistic hypothesis.

**About the speaker:** W. Rindler was born in Vienna. He was educated in England during World War II, getting his B.Sc. and M.Sc. from Liverpool University (under A. G. Walker) and his Ph.D. from Imperial College, London (under G. J. Whitrow). He taught at Liverpool, London, and finally Cornell University, before joining the faculty at the then newly created Southwest Center for Advanced Studies in 1963. That, of course, eventually became UTD. So Prof. Rindler is among the few who have been here continuously for over 40 years (with various leaves of absence at the universities of Rome, Cambridge, and Vienna). His field of study is Relativity and Cosmology, and he is the author or co-author of seven books (with translations into Russian, Italian, Japanese, and Greek), and over 60 papers. He loves to teach.