

Lecture with Dr. Jennifer Wiseman,  
Goddard Space Flight Center

# A Universe of Mystery and Awe

Dark Energy, Black Holes,  
Galaxies, and Earth

**May 15, 2018, 6:15 pm**

ETH Zentrum, Zürich

HG F1



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6:15 pm – 7:45 pm  
ETH Zentrum, HG F1  
(Rämistrasse 101, 8092 Zürich)

# A Universe of Mystery and Awe

## Dark Energy, Black Holes, Galaxies, and Earth

Lecture with Dr. Jennifer Wiseman  
followed by Apéro with drinks and snacks

Modern telescopes are revealing an ancient, beautiful, and active universe, from black holes in distant galaxies to stellar nurseries in nearby gas nebulae.

Dr. Wiseman will present some of the most stunning images and recent astronomical discoveries. Starting with the Big Bang nearly 14 billion years ago, the universe appears to have enabled galaxies and stars to mature over time to the point of supporting diverse planetary systems. The discovery of thousands of these «exoplanets» has spawned an energetic search for potentially habitable planets, and a desire to understand whether life could be common throughout the universe.

These scientific discoveries inspire deeper philosophical questions and reflection on the significance of human life as part of a fruitful and magnificent Cosmos.



**Dr. Jennifer Wiseman** is an astronomer, author, and speaker. She studies the process of star and planet formation in our galaxy using radio, optical, and infrared telescopes. She is a senior astrophysicist at the Goddard Space Flight Center, where she previously directed the Laboratory for Exoplanets and Stellar Astrophysics. She is also interested in national science policy and public science engagement, and directs the program of Dialogue on Science, Ethics, and Religion for the American Association for the Advancement of Science. She received her B.S. in physics from MIT, discovering comet Wiseman-Skiff in 1987, and her Ph.D. in astronomy from Harvard University. Dr. Wiseman frequently gives public talks on the excitement of scientific discovery. She grew up on an Arkansas farm enjoying late night stargazing walks with her family and pets.

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