



The Dice of Life

How probability rules the universe, society and science

Tom Siegfried

Editor in Chief, Science News

Science now sees the world in terms of roulette wheels and flipping coins. Most important (and least understood), scientific method relies (almost blindly) on statistical reasoning, making policy decisions based on scientific knowledge a very risky business.

7:00pm, Thursday, October 7, 2010



Hidden Realities:

Parallel Universes and the Deep Laws of the Cosmos

Dr. Brian Greene

Columbia University

A growing body of work based on a broad spectrum of ideas from quantum mechanics, cosmology, and string theory has been steadily converging around a proposal that our universe is actually only one of many universes.

7:00pm, Thursday, February 24, 2011



Dark Energy and the Runaway Universe

Dr. Alex Filippenko

University of California at Berkeley

The Universe is dominated by a mysterious, repulsive "dark energy." Very distant exploding stars show that expansion of the Universe is speeding up, rather than slowing down as expected due to the force of gravity.

7:00pm, Tuesday, November 2, 2010



Mysteries of Ancient Maya

Dr. Michael Coe

Princeton University

Decipherment of Maya script and recent archaeological finds are beginning to solve ancient mysteries: the origins of Maya civilization, the nature of Classic period city-states, the Maya view of the world, and the factors contributing to the disastrous collapse.

7:00pm, Thursday, March 10, 2011



From Science to Policy: What's so good about evidence?

Dr. Nancy Cartwright

London School of Economics

Clearly it is better to inform decisions by evidence than merely by ideology, wishful thinking or causal observation. But current methods are a bad way of using evidence to predict if policies will work in practice. This talk shows how to do better.

7:00pm, Thursday, February 10, 2011



Anthropos of Modernity

Dr. Paul Rabinow

University of California at Berkeley

Cultural self-reflexive anthropology focused on our own modernity examines cutting edge practices in our rapidly changing society – new media, art practices, synthetic life sciences, internet security, and other emergent phenomena, showing how a rigorous anthropology is valuable in modern debates.

7:00pm, Thursday, April 14, 2011

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