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, Thursday, October 7, 2010

Dark Energy and the Runaway Universe
Dr. Alex Filippenko
University of California at Berkeley

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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