

# Adam Frank

**Professor of astrophysics, science commentator, and popular author at University of Rochester**

Rochester, NY, US

Frank is a leading expert on how stars form and how they die, as well as civilizations before humans

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## Biography

Professor Frank's research is in the general area of theoretical astrophysics, and in particular the hydrodynamic and magneto-hydrodynamic evolution of matter ejected from stars. His scientific studies are funded by the National Science Foundation, NASA and the Department of Education. Current research topics include jets from Young Stellar Objects, bipolar outflows from evolved stars such as Planetary Nebulae and Massive stars. Investigations are carried out through the use of large scale numerical simulations. Frank is also an active member of the department's Plasma Physics program, which is part of the University's interdisciplinary program in High-Energy Density Plasmas. In collaboration with faculty at the University's Laboratory for Laser Energetics (an Inertial Confinement Fusion facility), he is conducting plasma astrophysical research on topics such as magnetic diffusion in interstellar clouds and the evolution of solar magnetic flux tubes. Professor Frank is also actively involved in science outreach as a popular science writer. He has contributed articles to Discover and Astronomy magazines. He received the science-writing prize from the Solar Physics Division of the American Astronomical Society in 1999. In 2024, he was an inaugural winner of the Berggruen Institute's International Prize Essay Competition. He received his PhD in Physics (1992) from University of Washington. He held postdoctoral and visiting scientist positions at Leiden University and the University of Minnesota. In 1995, he was awarded a Hubble Fellowship. He joined the University as an Assistant Professor of Physics and Astronomy in 1996. He was promoted to Associate Professor in 2000 and to Professor in 2004. He received a University Bridging Fellowship in 2005.

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## Industry Expertise

Writing and Editing, Education/Learning, Research

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## Areas of Expertise

US Space Program, Space Travel, Science and Religion, Evolution of Stars and Planets, Physics and Astronomy, Theoretical Astrophysics, Civilizations and climate change, Life on Other Planets

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## Education

University of Washington, Seattle

Ph.D. Physics

University of Washington, Seattle

M.S. Physics

University of Colorado, Boulder  
B.A. Physics

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## **Accomplishments**

**AAS SPD Popular Writing Award for a Scientist**  
1999

**Best American Science and Nature Writing**  
2009

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