

Laura Mersini-Houghton, Ph.D.

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Mersini-Houghton studies the origin of the universe, dark energy and the quantum physics of black holes.

Laura Mersini-Houghton is an internationally well known cosmologist and theoretical physicist, working on fundamental questions about the universe. She is a proponent of the multiverse hypothesis, which holds that our universe is one of many. She developed a theory of the origin of the universe from the quantum landscape multiverse, and derived a series of predictions for expected anomalies in the sky. The existence of these anomalies was confirmed by the Planck Satellite experiment in 2015 and 2018. In 2014, Mersini-Houghton's paper on black holes (which appears to demonstrate mathematically that they do not exist) generated much discussion in the scientific community. This led to UNC-Chapel Hill co-sponsoring the Hawking Radiation Conference in Stockholm in 2015, initiated by Mersini-Houghton. Stephen Hawking and other renowned physicists gathered to debate whether singularities in black holes exist and whether Hawking Radiation has bearing on their existence. Mersini-Houghton has taught at UNC-Chapel Hill since 2004. She received a B.S. degree from the University of Tirana, Albania, and an M.Sc. from the University of Maryland. She was awarded a Ph.D. in 2000 by the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. After earning her doctorate, Mersini-Houghton spent one year as a postdoctoral fellow at Syracuse University and eight months at Perimeter Institute of Theoretical Physics. She has given many public lectures in the United States, United Kingdom and Canada.

Theoretical Physics, High-Energy Physics, Quantum Physics, Cosmology, Black Holes, Dark Energy, Origins of the Universe, Space and Time

How the Light Gets In Conference

<https://howthelightgetsin.org/london/meet-our-speakers/laura-mersini-houghton>

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Ph.D. Theoretical Physics

University of Maryland-College Park

M.Sc. Theoretical Physics

Conference organizer, Hawking Radiation Conference

Initiated and organized international conference held in Stockholm, Sweden, August 2015.

A Debate in Cosmology: The Multiverse

One of the organizers of the conference, a collaborative effort between Columbia University, the Perimeter Institute and UNC-Carolina-Chapel Hill to stimulate progress in outstanding topics in theoretical physics.

"A Debate in Cosmology: The Arrows of Time"

Co-organized with Brian Greene at Columbia University and Justin Khoury at Perimeter Institute, at the New York Academy of Science. 2007

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