JOHN D. BARROW

John D. Barrow FRS is Professor of Mathematical Sciences at Cambridge University and Director of the Millennium Mathematics Project, a programme to improve the appreciation of mathematics and its applications, especially amongst young people and the general public. His research interests are in cosmology, astrophysics and gravitation.

He has received many awards, including the 2006 Templeton Prize, the Royal Society’s 2008 Faraday Prize, the 2009 Kelvin Medal, the 2012 Zeeman Medal of the London Mathematical Society, the 2015 Dirac Medal of the Institute of Physics, and the 2016 Gold Medal of the Royal Astronomical Society. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society and the Academia Europaea. He has written more than 520 scientific papers, and 22 books translated into 28 languages; including The Artful Universe, Cosmic Imagery: key images in the history of science, and 100 Essential Things You Didn’t Know You Didn’t Know about Maths and the Arts. His play, Infinities, won the Premi Ubu for best play in the Italian theatre in 2002 and the 2003 Italgas Prize. He was Gresham professor of Astronomy, and also of Geometry, and delivered series of lectures on the applications of maths to everyday life, sport and the arts, John Barrow also has the curious distinction of having delivered lectures on cosmology at the Venice Film Festival, 10 Downing Street, Windsor Castle and the Vatican Palace.

The Origin and Evolution of the Universe

We will introduce the concept of the expanding universe and the evidence for its evolution from a simple past towards the complexity of galaxies, stars and planets we see today. This will reveal unexpected connections between the properties of the universe and those conditions needed for life to exist and persist within it. We will meet the idea that an inflationary surge in expansion rate of the universe occurred in the distant past and see the powerful evidence for it. This will provoke us to consider if we are merely part of a multiverse of universes, each with different properties, and that our observable universe might have a beginning yet the multiverse does not. Finally, we will see what the mysterious acceleration of our universe’s expansion seen today signals about life the far future.

Website:
https://www.clarehall.cam.ac.uk/our-people/professor-john-barrow