



The Derby and District Astronomical Society

Friday 5th June 2026 - 7:30pm

Professor Alfonso Aragón-Salamanca

The Derby and District Astronomical Society are delighted to announce that on Friday 5th June 2026 at 7.30pm Professor Alfonso Aragón-Salamanca will be presenting a talk titled “Everything I have ever learned about galaxy evolution”.

The talk will take place at the Friend’s Meeting House, St Helen’s Street, DERBY, DE1 3GY.

Everything I have ever learned about galaxy evolution.

Now I am reaching the end of my career as an astronomer, I look back over the years at the some of the most significant discoveries in my field of research, galaxy formation and evolution, which have taken place since I started in the 1980s. In this talk I will present my contribution to these discoveries and put them in context. I will talk about how the most massive galaxies formed and evolved; how supernovae allowed us to measure the accelerated expansion of the Universe and infer the possible existence of dark energy; how many stars are formed in different types of galaxies today and in the past; how spiral galaxies transform into lenticulars (S0s); and how the environment affects how galaxies evolve. I hope you find the personal whistle-stop tour of galaxy formation and evolution interesting.

Professor Alfonso Aragón-Salamanca

Alfonso was born in a very small village north of Segovia, Spain. He was the first member of his family to go to university and studied Physics and Astrophysics in Bilbao and Madrid. After a short period away from academia, working for a technology company, he completed a PhD at Durham University. After a couple of short postdoctoral research positions in Durham and Cambridge, Alfonso became a Royal Society University Research Fellow, spending the first five years of his fellowship at the Institute of Astronomy in Cambridge. In 1999 he moved to the University of Nottingham and joined the then new Astronomy Group as a research fellow and lecturer. He subsequently became Professor of Astronomy in 2008, and in 2014 he became the Head of the Nottingham Astronomy Group, where he continues to work. Alfonso’s research focuses on understanding the physical processes that shape galaxies and their evolution. He is also an enthusiastic and committed teacher and mentor. He has had – and continues to have – very many excellent PhD students and postdocs who, according to him, have done most of the work.

Please note that occasionally due to events beyond the control of the Society there may be changes made to this programme. For the latest information please refer to the DDAS Website -

<http://www.derbyastronomy.org/>