Rossi Lectures 2026

10–12 November 2026

INAF – Osservatorio Astrofisico di Arcetri · Aula Pacini

The Milky Way in its cosmological context



Photo: Sake Elzinga (NRC)

Prof. Amina Helmi, University of Groningen
Kavli Prize in Astrophysics 2026

Lecture 1 – Galactic Archaeology

November 10, 11:00–12:30

- The basic ideas behind Galactic Archaeology
- The *Gaia* revolution (and other surveys)
- Reconstruction of the merger history of the Galaxy
- Characterization of the building blocks

Lecture 2 – The Milky Way in its cosmic context

November 11, 11:00–12:30

- MW's merger timeline, with a brief excursion to M31
- How typical are the MW and M31?
- Insights from constrained cosmological (hydro)dynamical simulations

Lecture 3 – The distribution of dark matter in and around the Milky Way

November 12, 11:00–12:30

- Milky Way's rotation curve
- The shape of the dark matter halo and correlations with history and environment
- Troubles for MOND
- Streams and dark subhalos

Online participation available – see announcement email for details.

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