



Heraklion, 21 October 2026

Press Release

“Nick Kylafis” Distinguished Lecture 2026 at the Foundation for Research and Technology – Hellas (FORTH)

The 8th annual Nick Kylafis Distinguished Lecture will be given for 2026 by the distinguished astrophysicist and cosmologist Simon D. M. White, Director Emeritus of the Max Planck Institute for Astrophysics in Garching, Germany.

Professor White’s lecture, which will follow the public ceremony, will be in English and it is entitled **“A puzzled solved: the world is flat”**. It will take place on **Monday, 26 October 2026, at 14.00 at the Auditorium of the FORTH Innovation and Advanced Training Hub of the Foundation for Research and Technology-Hellas (FORTH)**, with simultaneous webcast.

Professor White is internationally renowned for his fundamental contributions to our understanding of the formation of galaxies and of the largest structures in the Universe. He pioneered the establishment of numerical simulations as a primary research tool for comparing cosmological theories with astronomical observations, and played a decisive role in establishing the standard cosmological model, Λ CDM. He has published more than 700 papers in peer-reviewed scientific journals, which have received over 240,000 citations. He has received the most prestigious international awards in Astrophysics, including:

- Helen B. Warner Prize for Astronomy, American Astronomical Society (1986)
- Dannie Heineman Prize for Astrophysics, American Institute of Physics and American Astronomical Society (2005)
- Gold Medal of the Royal Astronomical Society (2006)
- Dirk Brouwer Award, American Astronomical Society (2008)
- European Latsis Prize, European Science Foundation (2008)
- Gruber Cosmology Prize (2011), with a cash award of \$0.5 million
- Shaw Prize in Astronomy (2017), with a cash award of \$1.2 million

He is a Fellow of the Royal Society, a Foreign Associate of the US National Academy of Sciences, a member of the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina and of the Academia Europaea, and a Foreign Member of the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

The “Nick Kylafis” Lectureship was established by the Foundation for Research and Technology - Hellas in 2019 in order to honor Nick Kylafis, Professor Emeritus at the Dept. of Physics of the Univ. of Crete, on the occasion of his 70th birthday, for his 35 years of scientific contributions and leadership towards the founding and continuous improvement of the Astrophysics Group at

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the University of Crete and FORTH. This lifelong commitment has been instrumental in the international recognition of the research activities of the Crete Astrophysics Group, which led to the creation of the Institute of Astrophysics at FORTH in 2018. Under the auspices of the Lectureship, a distinguished theoretical astrophysicist is invited annually at FORTH for a brief visit.

The Institute of Astrophysics anticipates that establishing the "Nick Kylafis" Lecture will attract distinguished astrophysicists to Crete, who will inspire with their presence the younger generations of scientists trained at FORTH and the University of Crete, and communicate to the wider scientific community of Greece the latest achievements in the rapidly evolving field of Theoretical Astrophysics.

To watch the ceremony and lecture online, you may follow the link:

<https://uoc-gr.zoom.us/j/83253494877?pwd=bZxzDB6Kg2YqI1kllxMkcddMYtWRO.1>