

COLLOQUIUM BY RONEN PLESSER

STRING THEORY: WHAT IT IS AND WHY YOU SHOULD CARE

TIME: 5:00-6:00 PM, WEDNESDAY, 09 NOV 2016

VENUE: AB 1079

String Theory: What it is and why you should care

Speaker: Ronen Plesser, Professor, Department of Physics, Duke University.

ABSTRACT:

String theory has been the focus of intense theoretical interest over the past thirty years as the leading candidate for a quantum theory of gravity. I will attempt to explain what the problem is that we are trying to solve and why it is significant. I will then outline the basic ideas comprising string theory as well as some of the remarkable properties it exhibits. Finally, I will survey some recent developments and open problems.

BIO:

Plesser was born in Israel and graduated from Tel Aviv University in 1981. Following military service he continued his studies at Harvard, receiving a PhD in 1991. After postdoctoral positions at Yale and at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, he joined the faculty of the Weizmann Institute of Science in Israel in 1995. In 1997 he moved to Duke where he has been since. His research interests center on the role of geometric structures in string theory and quantum field theory.