



The New Age of Discovery in Astronomy*

Robert Kennicutt

Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian

9 Dezembro 2009 | 18h00

*Tradução simultânea

We are in the midst of a golden age of discovery in astronomy, one which has been fueled by a new generation of telescopes on the ground and in space, the opening of new windows in the electromagnetic spectrum, and the computer revolution. These discoveries extend from the smallest astronomical scales, with the discovery of water on Mars and hundreds of new planets beyond our solar system, to the largest scales, with the discovery of our accelerating Universe dominated by dark energy and dark matter. This talk will highlight the discoveries of the past decade along with the mysteries that they reveal, and preview what we hope to learn from new telescopes being built or planned over the next decade.



Robert Kennicutt is the Plumian Professor of Astronomy and Experimental Philosophy at the University of Cambridge, and the Director of its Institute of Astronomy. His main research interests are in observational extragalactic astronomy, including observational cosmology, galaxy evolution, and star formation in galaxies. He has led large international team projects on the Hubble Space Telescope, Spitzer Space Telescope, Galaxy Evolution Explorer, and the Herschel Space Observatory, and served for 8 years as Editor-in-Chief of The Astrophysical Journal, the leading North American professional journal in astronomy.

Recently he was awarded the Gruber Cosmology Prize for his co-leadership of the Hubble Space Telescope Key Project that measured the size and age of the Universe.