

PHILOSOPHY LECTURE SERIES

Einstein:

PHILOSOPHER/SCIENTIST

These lectures are part of Einstein @ Rotman,
a celebration of the 100th anniversary
of General Relativity.

7 PM
WEDNESDAYS
OCTOBER 7–28

CENTRAL LIBRARY

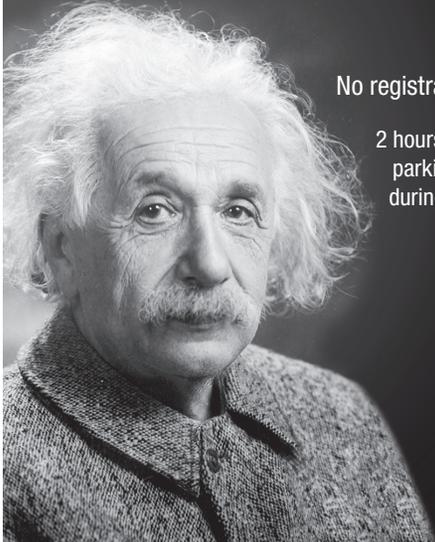
251 Dundas St.

Stevenson & Hunt Meeting Room A

Free!

No registration required.

2 hours free validated
parking in Citi Plaza
during Library hours.



This series of lectures has been
co-sponsored by Rotman Institute
of Philosophy and Western
University Philosophy Department



October 7

Einstein's Path to a New Theory

CHRIS SMEENK

In 1915, Einstein published a new theory of gravity. This lecture recounts the “rough and winding road” Einstein took in developing his theory, which included a dramatic race to the finish. Einstein’s approach was philosophical, guided by conceptual puzzles regarding space and motion. Learn how philosophy can contribute to physics.

October 14

Engaging philosophy:

Einstein on the method of science

STATHIS PSILLOS

Einstein said that scientists are poor philosophers. Yet, he added that especially in periods of scientific revolutions, scientists should not “surrender to philosophers the critical contemplation of the theoretical foundations” of science. Einstein’s views on the method of science will be critically examined by placing them within the context of his own historical narrative.

October 21

Einstein, God, Dice, and Quantum Mechanics

DOREEN FRASER

Einstein is best known for his contributions to the physics of spacetime, the Special and General Theories of Relativity. He also played an important role in the development of quantum mechanics, the other great theoretical advance in twentieth century physics. However, quantum mechanics made Einstein uncomfortable. The reasons for his unease will be discussed in this talk.

October 28

Einstein and the atom

WAYNE MYRVOLD

Einstein’s name is widely associated with the “atom bomb,” via the formula $E = mc^2$. Less widely known is that he played a key role in providing evidence that atoms actually exist. This talk will be about the ingenuity required to turn the visible into evidence about the invisible.