

GASEOUS HALOS AND GALAXY EVOLUTION: LATEST RESULTS FROM THE HUBBLE SPACE TELESCOPE

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4:00 P.M. ❖ 118 NSH

(Refreshments at 3:30 P.M. NSH 202)

A long-standing body of theory suggests that gas filling the extended halos of galaxies plays a significant role in their formation and evolution. The “circumgalactic medium” should contain both the fuel for and products of star formation in galaxies, but these regions are relatively unexplored owing to their extremely low densities. HST's new Cosmic Origins Spectrograph is a major advance in our ability to detect and study these diffuse regions of gaseous galaxy halos. I will first survey the intellectual history of this subject up to the present time, and then describe new results from a large HST/COS program to examine systematically the gas flowing in and out of galaxy halos and to determine its role in ongoing galaxy evolution.

Colloquium

All interested persons are cordially invited to attend.