



「淡江講座」

微亮藍點
——
從宇宙看地球

科學、歷史、宗教與未來的對話

主講人：
國際知名物理學暨未來學家
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- 場次一 為何世界是如此複雜？
12/09(二) 下午 4:00-6:00 C013(水牛廳)
- 場次二 上帝存在嗎？
12/10(三) 下午 1:00-3:00 覺生國際會議廳
- 場次三 如何定位歷史與預測未來？
12/11(四) 下午 2:00-4:00 I201(圖書館後棟)

Poster of my
Tamkang Chair Lectures
2004

The columns of words
from right to left:
Dialogue between
science, history,
religion and the
future. This Pale Blue
Dot: Viewing Earth
from the Perspective
of the Universe



TAMKANG CHAIR LECTURE SERIES 147

This Pale Blue Dot Science, History, God

Lui Lam

The year was 1989. When NASA's Voyager 2 encountered with Neptune, images of six of the Sun's nine planets were taken. In this rare picture, our dear Earth appears as a pale blue dot. The blue are reflections from the sea and the sky while the white comes from the clouds.

It is this pale blue dot we share everyday. It is on this pale blue dot our joy and sorrow come and go. We are curious about the real world happening on this pale blue dot and beyond. We are curious about the trees, ants, sunset and the stars up in the sky. We are curious about the fate of the humans— past, present and future. And we keep on wondering whether there is a God out there.

These questions were raised systematically about 600 B.C. by the Greeks in the West, and by Lao Tzu and others in the East. The complete answer did not come, not even today. However, in the past 400 years since the time of Galileo, modern science prospers and we know much more. We even have the answer to some of the big questions raised by our ancestors.

Our understanding of this pale blue dot comes from all branches of science, but especially from the study of nonlinear and complex systems in the last two decades. In these three lectures, some of these understandings are presented, spanning from science to human history and to the God question.



Lui Lam earned his B.Sc. (First Class Honors) from the University of Hong Kong, M.Sc. from the University of British Columbia, and Ph.D. from Columbia University. He is now Professor of physics at San Jose State University, California, and Guest Professor at both the Chinese Academy of Sciences and the China Association for Science and Technology. Prof. Lam invented bowlics (1982), one of three existing types of liquid crystals in the world; active walks (1992), a new paradigm in complex systems; and a new discipline called histophysics (2002). He published ten books and over 150 scientific papers, and is the founder of the International Liquid Crystal Society and a consulting scholar at the Foundation For the Future.

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The covers of my first popsci book, *This Pale Blue Dot: Science, History, God*