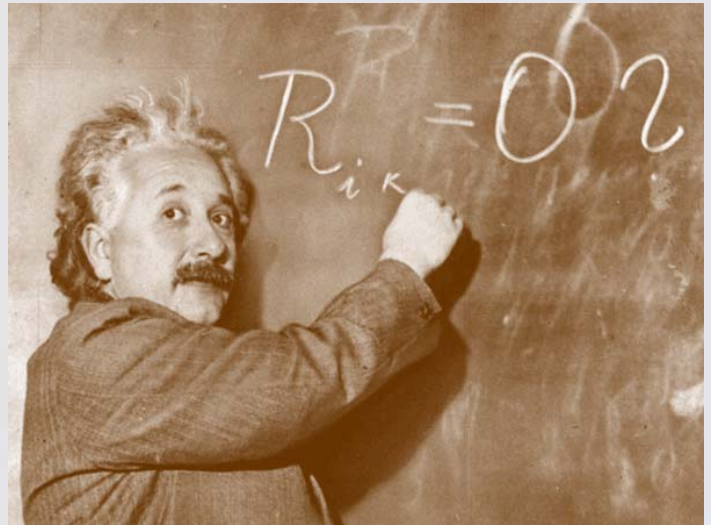


# Cracking the Einstein Code: Relativity and the Birth of Black Hole Physics

Lecture by Dr. Fulvio Melia,  
Professor of Physics and Astronomy  
at the University of Arizona

Friday, April 9, 2010 at 6:00 p.m.



Albert Einstein's theory of general relativity describes the effect of gravitation on the shape of space and the flow of time. But for more than four decades after its publication, the theory remained largely a curiosity for scientists. However accurate it seemed, Einstein's mathematical code—represented by six interlocking equations—was one of the most difficult to crack in all of science. Finally a twenty-nine-year-old Cambridge graduate solved the great riddle in 1963. Roy Kerr's solution coincided with the discovery of black holes and provided fertile testing ground—at long last—for general relativity. Today, scientists routinely cite the Kerr solution but even among specialists, few know the story of how Kerr cracked Einstein's code.

By unmasking the history behind the search for a real world solution to Einstein's field equations, Melia offers a first-hand account of an important but untold story. Reading Public Museum and the Berks County Amateur Astronomical Society are pleased to present Dr. Melia's lecture based on the 2009 book *Cracking the Einstein Code: Relativity and the Birth of Black Hole Physics*. Fulvio Melia is professor of physics and astronomy at the University of Arizona and author of numerous books including *The Galactic Supermassive Black Hole*.

**Lecture Cost: Free to Museum & BCAAS Members and cost of Museum admission for Non-Members  
(Admission costs: \$8 adult/\$6 senior & student)**

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## Cracking the Einstein Code Registration Form

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 Guest name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Is guest a Museum/BCAAS Member?     Yes     No  
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 I have enclosed a check payable to Reading Public Museum     Please charge my credit card (amount) \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
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 Phone: 610-371-5850 ext. 227 or visit us on the Web at: [www.readingpublicmuseum.org](http://www.readingpublicmuseum.org)