

Science, Pathological Science and Pseudoscience

Dr. Saibal Mitra

Department of Physics, Astronomy, and Materials Science
Missouri State University, Springfield, MO 65897

4:00 to 5:00 pm, Thursday, September 3, 2009
Kemper Hall Room 100

Face on Mars, cold fusion, polywater, N-rays – the list goes on. Over the years extraordinary and sensational claims have been made by men that, ultimately, do not stand up to the scientific scrutiny. This talk is a reminder of how pathological science and pseudoscience have influenced popular thinking over the years. Unfortunately, there is quite a mass following for these ideas. This has a serious impact on how science is perceived in society.

I will discuss the elements that define the scientific method and contrast it with the characteristics of pathological science (cold fusion, N-rays etc.) and pseudoscience (astrology, creation science, and so on). This talk is in the spirit of the University's public affair mission of training its student who will "recognize the importance of scientific principles in the generation of sound public policy."



Contact: Dr. Lifeng Dong
Tel.: (417) 836-3755 or (417) 836-3153
E-mail: LifengDong@MissouriState.edu