



DECEMBER

02

2019

Irchel
Campus
Y16 G15
4:15 pm



SCHRÖDINGER

COLLOQUIUM

SERIES

www.physik.uzh.ch/schroedinger

PROF. MICHELA MASSIMI The University of Edinburgh
The explanatory role of dark matter

In this talk I ask two philosophical questions: when is a scientific entity explanatory? And under what conditions do we have reasons for believing in the scientific entity on the ground of its explanatory role? I look at dark matter and the history of dark matter searches and tease out different possible ways in which these questions can be (and have been) answered

depending on how dark matter has featured in the explanation of a number of phenomena, from galaxies' rotation curves to galaxy clusters and the growth of large scale structure. In so doing, I discuss the respective roles, problems, and promises of causal explanations and statistical explanations in the case of dark matter.

