

SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS AND DEPARTMENT OF  
ASTRONOMY COLLOQUIUM

Speaker: Prof. Luigi Gallo (Saint Mary's University)

Topic: Revealing the Innermost Regions of Active Galactic Nuclei

Time: 3:00 PM, Friday, November 18, 2016 (refreshments served at  
2:45 PM)

Place: Room 215, Physics-Astronomy Building (PA-215)

Abstract:

X-ray observations of active galactic nuclei (AGN) reveal the physics at work in the region closest to the black hole event horizon. I will discuss some of the most sensitive X-ray observations of AGN and describe the processes responsible for the complex spectral appearance and the extreme variability in the light curves. I will discuss what this tells us about the black hole environment, the geometry of the inner region, and even about the black hole itself. I will discuss the future of black hole studies and the premature loss of the Hitomi X-ray observatory.