

Get Involved: Cosmic Cafés

In November 2011 the science television series NOVA premiered a four-part miniseries “The Fabric of the Cosmos” on PBS, based on the best-selling book of the same



name by Brian Greene. The series takes a look at many big questions in the fields of space, time, quantum mechanics, and the multiverse. In order to engage more people in discussions about these topics and science in general, the Society of Physics Students (SPS) partnered with NOVA to promote Science Cafés themed around these big questions, called Cosmic Cafés.

Science Cafés are live—and lively—events that take place in casual settings such as coffeehouses or bars, are open to everyone, and feature an engaging conversation with a scientist about a compelling

and current scientific topic. Cosmic Cafés are just science cafés themed around space and the universe, or other concepts featured in “The Fabric of the Cosmos” miniseries.

There is no organization that runs Science Cafés—a café can be hosted by anyone, anywhere, on any topic. However, NOVA supports ScienceCafes.org as a place for organizers to promote their cafés and find resources, and for interested people to find a nearby café.

To find a café, start a café, or just learn more about them, visit: www.ScienceCafes.org.



TOP
SPS intern Anish Chakrabarti introduced Dr. James Gates, who participated in the first ever Cosmic Café. Photo by Courtney Lemon.

LEFT
Brian Greene, author of *The Fabric of the Cosmos*, is also host of the 4-part series. Photo courtesy of WGBH Educational Foundation.