

# Join us and experience a public talk : "Stars That Go Bang in the Night"

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A very recent view of the 'Crab Nebula' made using data gathered across the spectrum from radio waves to X-rays. The Crab represents the rapidly expanding remains of a supernova explosion which was observed by astronomers in the Far East in 1054 AD and was visible in broad daylight for months afterwards as a new star in the sky.

Image Credit: NASA, ESA, NRAO/AUI/NSF and G. Dubner (University of Buenos Aires)

Most of the stars we see in the sky shine in a pretty constant manner for up to billions of years. At the end of their lives, typical stars like the Sun 'go out with a whimper'. On the other hand some much rarer, but very important, objects go out with a bang!

In this talk I will describe the main types of exploding stars and look at some of the history of their observation, stretching back over 2000 years. We will explore how such stars are thought to explode and why their study is so important. It turns out that the most energetic examples are in fact the most titanic explosions since the Big Bang itself. Indeed, their study is one of the key science areas for the 'Square Kilometre Array' - the world's largest ever ground-based astronomy project, and one in which Botswana is destined to make a valuable contribution. At the other end of the scale, amateur astronomers, using telescopes in their back yards, still make a valuable contribution to our understanding.

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*On the 22nd of February 2018*

*@ University of Botswana - Health Sciences Auditorium 1 Block 246*

*from 6pm till 8pm*

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