

Dr. Richard Dawid: String Theory and the Scientific Method

For the last thirty years, string theory has played a highly influential role in fundamental physics without having found empirical confirmation. The presentation will analyse reasons for the high degree of trust many physicists have developed in a theory that, according to classical standards of theory assessment, would have to be called an unconfirmed speculation. It will be argued that the case of string theory may suggest a new perspective on our understanding of theory confirmation in general.