

# PITT PACC Workshop: Non-Standard Cosmological Epochs and Expansion Histories

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## **Block VI: Connections to Fundamental Theory - Discussion**

*Friday 6 September 2024 14:30 (1 hour)*

Co-Discussion Leaders: Jim Halverson, Gary Shiu

This block is focused on the connections between non-standard expansion histories and fundamental theory. To what extent do different top-down scenarios for physics beyond the Standard Model, including string theory, predict departures from the standard cosmology? Conversely, were we to obtain observational evidence that indeed the expansion history of our universe differs from that of the standard cosmology, what would this tell us about fundamental physics at high scales?

**Presenters:** Prof. SHIU, Gary (University of Wisconsin-Madison); JIM, Halverson