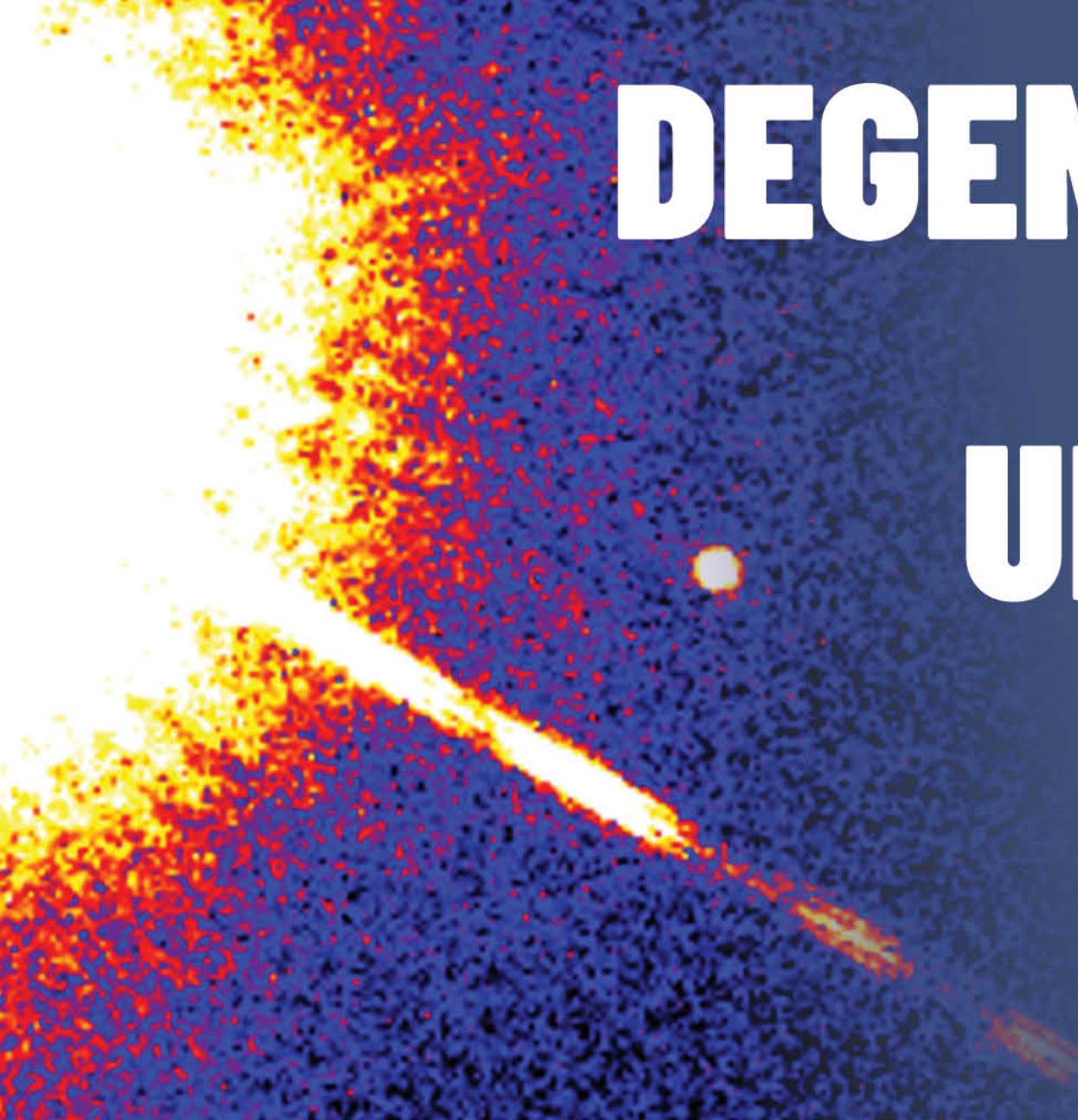


# DEGENERATES OF THE UNIVERSE



## DR. REBECCA OPPENHEIMER

*American Museum of Natural History*

Dr. Oppenheimer is a Curator and Professor at the American Museum of Natural History in New York. She is a comparative exoplanetary scientist who investigates planets that orbit stars other than the Sun. Her optics laboratory is the birthplace of a number of new astronomical instruments designed to tackle the problem of observing nearby planetary systems directly, with the ultimate goal of finding life outside our solar system.



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[wesleyan.edu/astro/events/sturm-lecture.html](https://wesleyan.edu/astro/events/sturm-lecture.html)

From white dwarfs to neutron stars, and brown dwarfs to planets, the universe is full of “degenerate” objects, a term from physics that refers to the exotic state of compact matter within them. Understanding the nature of degenerate objects is vital for a complete description of two of the most important cosmic processes: stellar death and planetary birth. Dr. Rebecca Oppenheimer, co-discoverer of the first known brown dwarf, discusses three decades of her own research on these small but fascinating denizens of the universe.

7:30 P.M.

**APRIL 23, 2024**

**Ring Family Performing Arts Hall,  
Wesleyan University**

RECEPTION AND TELESCOPE VIEWING AT THE  
VAN VLECK OBSERVATORY TO FOLLOW THE LECTURE.

 **Wesleyan University**

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THE 2024 STURM MEMORIAL LECTURE