

Cluster of galaxies: Light in the dark spaces

John Porter memorial lecture

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Understanding the evolution of mass at the centres of clusters of galaxies is essential if we are to be confident that we can explain structure in the wider universe. However, current telescopes and surveys find it difficult to measure the faint light between the galaxies - the Intra-Cluster Light or ICL - even though in total this can be more significant than the more concentrated light of the central galaxy. This talk will look at current challenges in studying the ICL and how they are being overcome, and also look to the near future when new facilities like the Large Synoptic Survey Telescope (LSST) will give an unprecedented view of this elusive but vital part of the cosmos.

