

**SPACE PHYSICS AND ASTROPHYSICS JOINT SEMINAR****A Planetary Scientist's Unexpected (Animated) Journey**

The rings of Saturn are falling into the planet at an alarming rate. They may be a mere faint ring of their former selves in a few hundred million years, which sounds like a lot, but it's less than 10% of the age of the solar system. This finding was the result of a study I was leading with BU's Luke Moore, which would be published on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2018. However, I had an unshakable picture in my mind about what Saturn would like in 300 million years, on the Friday beforehand, and a burning urge to show that picture to others, somehow. After a lot of work, I had managed to create an animation showing Saturn's dying rings, it was the first animation I'd ever made, and ended up at the top of an article in the NY Times about our work on the following Monday. Animation revealed the hidden visual in my head for this mechanism and its consequences, it is a powerful and fast way to show people the world as you see it. This talk is about how I got my start in animated science communication, how it has been useful for explaining our Giant Planet work, and how it somewhat unexpectedly blew up on social media...

**Thursday, May 2nd**

3:30-4:30 p.m.

725 Commonwealth Ave | Room 502

**James O'Donoghue**

University of Reading