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Searching for the Known Unknowns: Lightening up the Dusty Universe

I will talk about how to use astrophysical transients to address fundamental questions about the Universe we live in. Astrophysical transients, such as massive stars exploding as supernovae, are the spotlights of the Universe, which is filled with small solid particles, 'cosmic dust', of unknown origin. Some question which shall be addressed are: Are supernovae the long sought production factories of large cosmic dust grains? Are all types of supernovae equally productive? The discovery space opened up by new transient surveys will also enable us to find and elucidate the nature of rare and yet unknown transients and their role in the dusty universe.

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