**Abraham (Avi) Loeb** is the Frank B. Baird, Jr., Professor of Science at [Harvard University](http://www.harvard.edu/) and a [bestselling author (in lists of the New York Times,](https://www.cfa.harvard.edu/~loeb/bsl_021421.pdf)Wall Street Journal, Publishers Weekly, Die Zeit, Der Spiegel, L'Express and more). He received a PhD in Physics from the [Hebrew University of Jerusalem](https://en.huji.ac.il/en) in Israel at age 24 (1980-1986), led the first international project supported by the [Strategic Defense Initiative](http://www.harvard.edu/) (1983-1988), and was subsequently a long-term member of the [Institute for Advanced Study](http://www.ias.edu) at Princeton (1988-1993). Loeb has written 8 books, including most recently, [Extraterrestrial](https://www.hmhbooks.com/shop/books/Extraterrestrial/9780358274551), and [nearly a thousand papers](https://ui.adsabs.harvard.edu/search/fq=%7B!type%3Daqp%20v%3D%24fq_database%7D&fq_database=database%3A%20(astronomy%20OR%20physics%20OR%20general)&p_=0&q=author%3A(%22Loeb%2C%20A.%22)&sort=date%20desc%2C%20bibcode%20desc) (with [h-index of 121 and i10-index of 553](https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=CvQxOmwAAAAJ&hl=en)) on a wide range of topics, including black holes, the first stars, the search for extraterrestrial life and the future of the Universe. Loeb is the Director of the [Institute for Theory and Computation](http://www.cfa.harvard.edu/itc/) (2007-present) within the [Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics](http://www.cfa.harvard.edu/), and also serves as the Head of the [Galileo Project](https://projects.iq.harvard.edu/galileo) (2021-present). He had been the [longest serving Chair](https://astronomy.fas.harvard.edu/astronomy-chairs) of Harvard's [Department of Astronomy](http://astronomy.fas.harvard.edu) (2011-2020) and the Founding Director of Harvard's [Black Hole Initiative](https://bhi.fas.harvard.edu/) (2016-2021). He is an elected fellow of the [American Academy of Arts & Sciences](http://www.amacad.org/news/alphalist2012.pdf), the [American Physical Society](http://www.aps.org/programs/honors/fellowships/), and the [International Academy of Astronautics](http://www.iaaweb.org). Loeb is [a former member](https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/president-donald-j-trump-announces-intent-nominate-appoint-individuals-key-administration-posts-35/) of the [President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/President%27s_Council_of_Advisors_on_Science_and_Technology) at the White House, a former chair of the [Board on Physics and Astronomy of the National Academies](https://www.nationalacademies.org/bpa/about) (2018-2021) and a current member of the Advisory Board for ["Einstein: Visualize the Impossible"](https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/nobel-laureate-top-physicists-join-hebrew-universitys-einstein-visualize-the-impossible-project-301073770.html) of the Hebrew University. He also chairs the Advisory Committee for the [Breakthrough Starshot Initiative](http://breakthroughinitiatives.org/leaders/3) (2016-present) and serves as the Science Theory Director for all [Initiatives](http://www.breakthroughinitiatives.org) of the [Breakthrough Prize Foundation](http://www.breakthroughprize.org). In 2012, [TIME magazine](https://www.cfa.harvard.edu/~loeb/TIME.pdf) selected Loeb as one of the 25 most influential people in space and in 2020 Loeb [was selected](https://www.fromthegrapevine.com/lifestyle/most-inspiring-israelis-we-met-decade-2010-2019) among the 14 most inspiring Israelis of the last decade. Click [here](https://www.cfa.harvard.edu/~loeb/Opinion.html) for Loeb's commentaries on innovation and diversity.

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