

Eric C. Bellm – Colloquium Seminar November 5, 2026
University of Washington

Title: Hunting for Compact Binaries in the Time Domain with ZTF and Rubin

Abstract:

The NSF-DOE Vera C. Rubin Observatory has now begun its decade-long Legacy Survey of Space and Time (LSST). The LSST will produce a time-domain catalog of the southern sky of unprecedented scale. Along with enabling many other science goals, these data will allow a deeper view of the optical variability of compact binaries in our Galaxy and the Magellanic Clouds. I will describe precursor science we have conducted with data from the Zwicky Transient Facility, discuss early results from the Rubin alert stream and Data Preview 2, and provide a look ahead to forthcoming Rubin data releases.

Bio: Eric Bellm is a Research Associate Professor in the Department of Astronomy at the University of Washington. He serves as the Alert Production Pipeline Group Lead for the Vera C. Rubin Observatory as well as Survey Scientist for the Zwicky Transient Facility.