

Debate Arising from James Webb Space Telescope

Post by "Godfrey" of August 25, 2022 at 12:19 PM

Quote

Lerner's piece uses some of the early JWST studies to attempt to dismiss the Big Bang theory. What's concerning is how it misconstrues early JWST data to suggest that astronomers and cosmologists are worried the well-established theory is incorrect. There are two points early in Lerner's article which show this:

He points to a preprint with the word "Panic!" in its title, calling it a "candid exclamation." He misuses a quote from Allison Kirkpatrick, an astronomer at the University of Kansas.

The first point is just a case of Lerner missing the pun. The full title of the paper is "Panic! At the Disks: First Rest-frame Optical Observations of Galaxy Structure at $z > 3$ with JWST in the SMACS 0723 Field." The first author of that preprint, astronomer Leonardo Ferreira, is clearly riffing on popular 2000s emo band Panic! at the Disco with his title. It's a tongue-in-cheek reference, not a cosmological crisis.

This first point is rather amusing, but also a good example of how misinformation gets started.