

FIFTH ANNUAL VISITING LECTURESHIP SERIES — **FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

THE AMBIGUITY OF

# TIME'S ARROW

9 APRIL 2015 • 8:00 PM  
ROOM A-10 JADWIN HALL



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## DOES TIME FLOW FROM THE PAST TO THE FUTURE?

In our everyday lives we have the sense that time flows inexorably from the past into the future, that it has a definite direction and that the arrow of time points toward a future of greater entropy and disorder.

In the microscopic world of atoms and molecules, the direction of time is indeterminate and ambiguous, and in that realm entropy can occasionally decrease.

These fluctuations of disorder have profound implications for the operation of the molecular machinery from which living cells are built.

