

Excellence in Science Communication

Physicist Prescod-Weinstein honored by National Academies for writing

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Chanda Prescod-Weinstein, assistant professor of physics and astronomy and core faculty of women’s and gender studies, is a top award winner of the inaugural [Eric and Wendy Schmidt Awards for Excellence in Science Communication](#), given by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine in partnership with Schmidt Futures.

Prescod-Weinstein received the top prize in the category “Research Scientist: Mid-Career to Later Career” for three articles that advance science for the general public:

[“Enter the Axion”](#) (American Scientist)

[“Becoming Martian”](#) (The Baffler)

[“A Black Femme Dreams in Equations”](#) (Essence)

“Prescod-Weinstein makes dark matter and astrophysics personally meaningful and fascinating for readers by blending physics and metaphysics in jaw-dropping and beautiful ways,” says her award citation. “It’s not just science, it’s also literary, it’s worldly, it’s masterful.

Exceptional writing on complex topics, done in a voice aimed at marginalized audiences. Reading her writing is a joy.”

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Prescod-Weinstein, a theoretical cosmologist and particle physicist who studies dark matter, is also a prolific science communicator, writing [articles](#) and [social media posts](#) that bring complex ideas about physics, cosmology and social justice to broad audiences. She recently won the [Phi Beta Kappa Book Award for Science](#) and the [PEN Oakland Josephine Miles Award](#), both for her book [The Disordered Cosmos: A Journey Into Dark Matter, Spacetime, and Dreams Deferred](#) (Bold Type Books). In April, she received the [Los Angeles Times Book Prize](#) in the science and technology category.

Prescod-Weinstein is among 24 inaugural recipients of the award — 12 awards for best science communication by research scientists and 12 awards for science journalists, split among six categories. The winners will be honored during a recognition event and workshop on Nov. 11 and 12 in Washington, D.C.

WRITTEN [Beth Potier](#) | Communications and Public Affairs |

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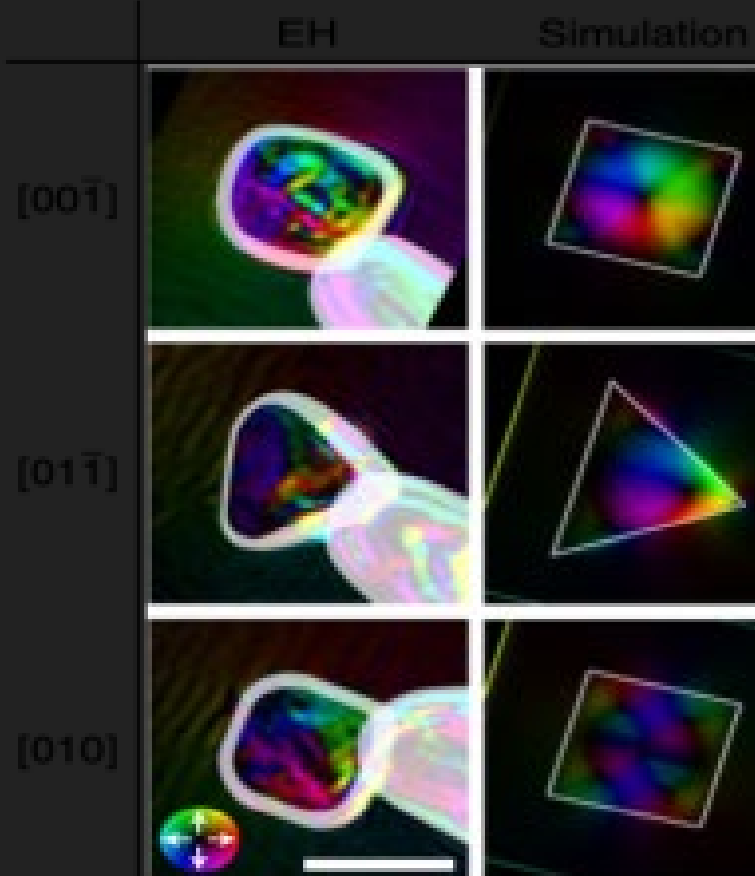
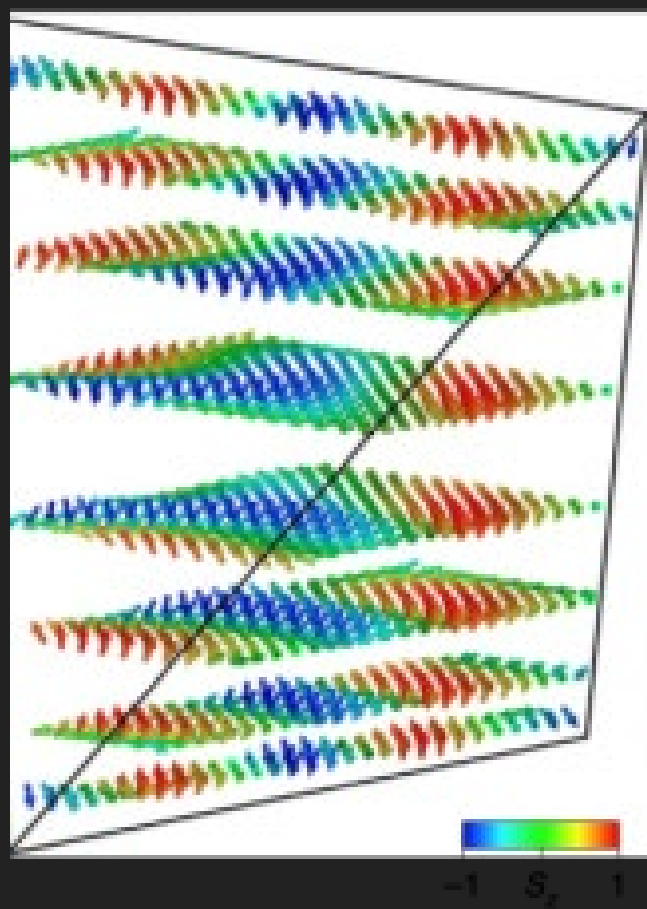
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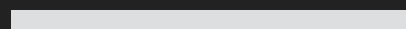
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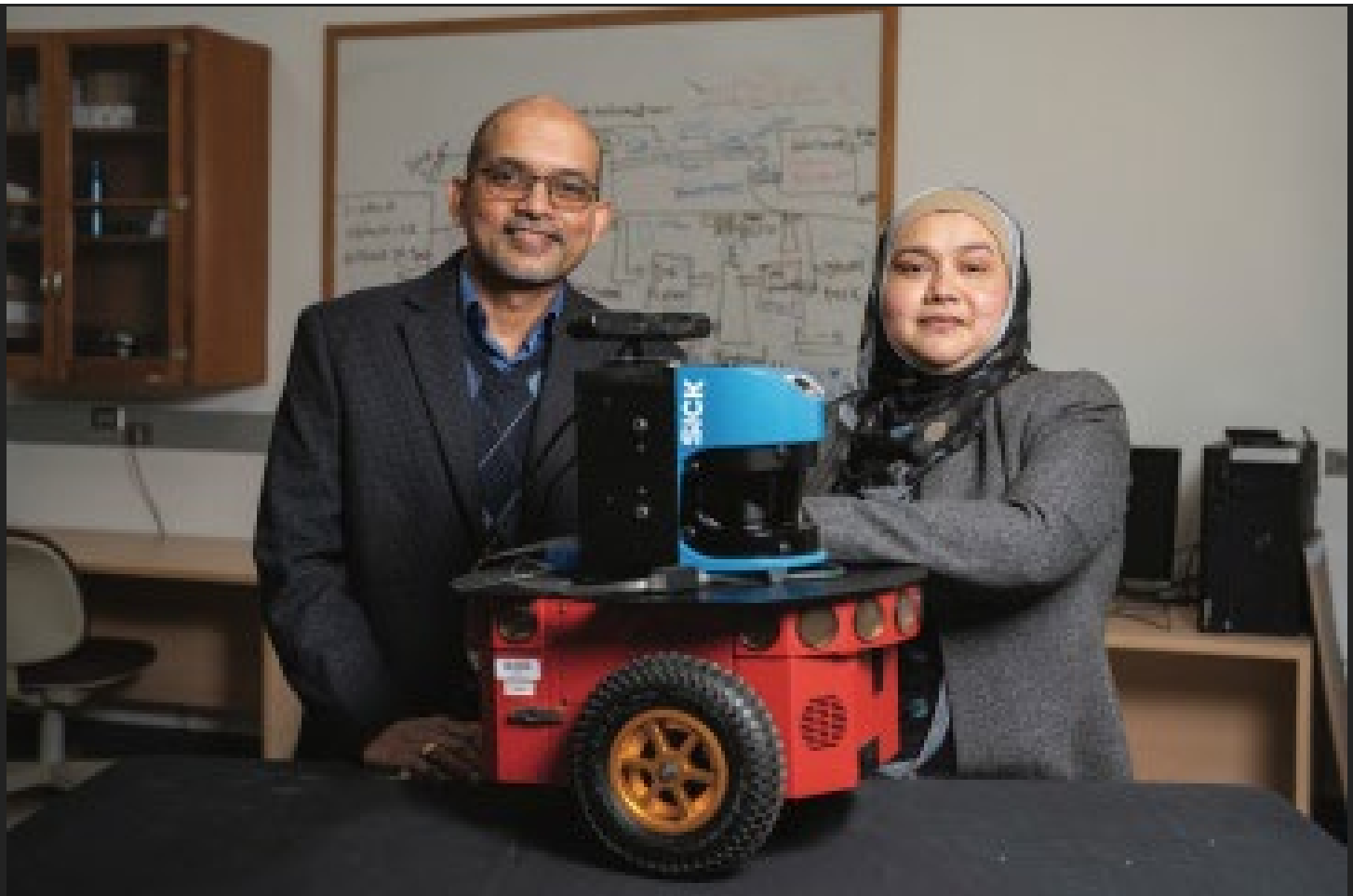
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