"The Ghastly Apparition Of Atheism": On The Perplexing Kerfuffle Over Einstein’s "Cosmic Pantheism"

The early-to-mid twentieth century produced a little-remembered "scandal" over Einstein's denial of a personal God. Although he was immediately charged with atheism, Einstein did not deny the existence of God; rather, he re-coded divinity as the partly knowable, ultimately mysterious, nevertheless rational order of the universe. This lecture calls upon this decades-long scandal as a means, first, of examining the alleged equivalence of pantheism and atheism, and second, of analyzing the conceptual coherence of such "atheistic" pantheism.