

UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO

Department of Physics seminar DIPARTIMENTO DI FISICA, VIA CELORIA 16, MILANO Aula Consiglio October 4th, 2016 – 14:30

The Challenges of Understanding Tornadoes Better William Gallus

(Iowa State University, USA)

Although atmospheric scientists have understood for several decades the processes that cause some thunderstorms to rotate, the precise details of how tornadoes occur in these supercell thunderstorms has remained a more difficult challenge to determine. This seminar will discuss what is known about thunderstorm rotation and the processes likely playing a role in tornado formation. The unique challenges associated with researching tornadoes, related to their extreme intensity and small scale, will also be discussed. Some of the past research by Professor Gallus examining tornado interactions with the ground will be shown, along with the first video taken from inside a tornado. The occurrence of tornadoes in Italy will also be discussed along with the implications of climate change for tornado intensity and frequency in Italy, the subject of research Professor Gallus is conducting while on his sabbatical at the University of Milan.

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