Giant Outflows from the Centre of the Milky Way

The last five years have witnessed a startling discovery about our home Galaxy: there are giant outflows that emerge from the Galactic nucleus. As seen from the Earth, these extend more than half-way across the sky. These `Fermi Bubbles', discovered in gamma-ray data, have subsequently been revealed in polarized radio and microwave emission. Debate continues as to the origin of the Bubbles: are they the signatures of a comparatively recent (~1 Myr) outburst from the Galaxy’s resident supermassive black hole? Alternatively, are they signatures of dark matter annihilation? I will review this debate and present data that indicates that the Bubbles are, in fact, generated by energy injected by the concentrated star-formation and attendant supernovae that occur in the Galactic centre.