Seminars on History of Science at SISSA



Series of conferences with international experts starts in November

November 21, 2016

Starting on November 23 at the International School for Advanced Studies (SISSA) in Trieste, there will be a series of monthly meetings dedicated to the history of science. Big names from Italy and abroad will take turns telling the story until next May. The first talk will be held by Malcolm Longair, renowned Theoretical Physicist and former Director of Cavendish Laboratory, a "sacred" place in the history of modern physics. Longair's talk dedicated to James Clerk Maxwell, founder of the Theory of Electromagnetism, will be held onWednesday, November 23, at 3:00pm. The seminars are free and open to the public, in English. The series is organized by the Interdisciplinary Laboratory (ILAS) at SISSA.

SISSA is launching a series of seminars devoted to the History of Science with international experts addressing various aspects of this fascinating subject.The talks will be held on a monthly basis starting in November and continuing until May. The first event will be with Malcolm Longair, former long-time Director of the historic Cavendish Laboratory at Cambridge, where he worked with some of the most famous names in Physics from the last century and Science in general (29 Nobel laureates in all).

Longair will talk about the discovery of Electromagnetism by James Clerk Maxwell, also a Cavendish professor, and how analogies played a central role in this extraordinary scientific event. Maxwell built his theories on the analogy between mechanical and electromagnetic phenomena. In his talk, Longair will describe a mechanical model that explains electromagnetic induction. The seminar with Longair will be held on November 23 at 3:00pm, in Room 138 of the School (main building).

December's speaker is distinguished numbers theorist, Don Zagier. Zagier will share a little known story on mathematical discoveries made in Japan in the 17th and 18th centuries, a period in which the country was completely isolated. In January, Elena Castellani, renowned Philosopher of Science, will explain the crucial role the concept of symmetry played in the development of Science. The February seminar will be led by Luisa Bonolis. Bonolis is a well-known Historian hailing from the Max Planck Institute in Berlin. She will speak about the birth of Relative Astrophysics, an important area of scientific research, which began with the first analysis of white dwarfs and massive stars colliding, in 1920.

The seminars in March, April and May will be held respectively by Annamaria Lombardi, who will talk about Keplero, Valeria Delle Cave,focusing on Giuseppe Occhialini, and Andrea Cappelli, who will talk about the history of String Theory. More details on these events will be provided closer to the dates they will take place.

The seminars are free and open to the public, and held in English.

Partial listing of dates:

- ***Malcom Longair***, 23 Novembre 2016, 3:00p.m., Room 138 - SISSA
- ***Don Zagier***, 6 December 2016, 4:00p.m.,Room 138 - SISSA
- ***Elena Castellani***, 18 January 2017, 3:00p.m., Room 138 - SISSA
- ***Luisa Bonolis***, 22 February 2017, 3:00p.m., Room 138 – SISSA

For more information: ilas@sissa or phone: 0403787549, 401.

USEFUL LINKS:

- **Preliminary programme and abstracts: https://goo.gl/qUCJDo**
- **Longair's talk abstract: https://goo.gl/vMrPQB**

IMAGES:

- **Cover: James Clerk Maxwell (Public domain)**
- **DOWNLOAD James Clerk Maxwell portrait (Credits Giuseppe Mussardo): https://goo.gl/oTt4jb**

Contacts:

Press office:
pressoffice@sissa.it
Tel: (+39) 040 3787644 | (+39) 366-3677586

via Bonomea, 265
34136 Trieste

More information about SISSA: www.sissa.it