

Department of Physics Colloquium

Wednesday, January 22nd at 4:00 p.m. / SH 121

Pre-Colloquium at 3:30 p.m. / SH 108

Changing the World: Heisenberg, Schrödinger, and the Birth of Quantum Mechanics

Speaker: Dr. Alan Chodos

Abstract:

2025 marks the 100th anniversary of the birth of quantum mechanics. This talk will return to those thrilling days of yesteryear, reviewing first the era of the “old quantum mechanics”, then discussing the work of Heisenberg, Schrödinger, and other significant contributors in 1925-26, and finally dealing with some relevant subsequent developments. The philosophy, approach to physics, and personal lives of Heisenberg and Schrödinger will be compared, and it will be found that in many ways they were polar opposites.