

The Medium The Mystic And The Physicist

The Physicist and the Philosopher Reality and the Physicist Mathematics, from the Point of View of the Mathematician and the Physicist Incertain Réalité Revival: Philosophy and the Physicists (1937) Julian Schwinger The Physicist's Conception of Nature The Physicist's World A Mind Over Matter THE PHYSICISTS The Physicist and the Philosopher Subtle is the Lord Landau, the Physicist and the Man The physics and philosophy of the senses; or, The mental and the physical in their mutual relation The Medium, the Mystic, and the Physicist The Physicist's World Physicist and the Philosopher (eGalley) The Physicist's Way Physical Technics; Or, Practical Instructions for Making Experiments in Physics and the Construction of Physical Apparatus with the Most Limited Means The American Catholic Quarterly Review Jimena Canales Bernard D'Espagnat Bernard d'. Espagnat Lizzie Susan Stebbing Yee Jack Ng Jagdish Mehra Thomas Grissom Andrew Zangwill Daniel J. Kevles Jimena Canales Abraham Pais Isaak Markovich Khalatnikov Robert Stodart Wyld Lawrence Leshan Thomas Grissom Jimena Canales P. James E. Peebles Joseph Frick James Andrew Corcoran

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the explosive debate that transformed our views about time and scientific truth on april 6 1922 in paris albert einstein and henri bergson publicly debated the nature of time einstein considered bergson s theory of time to be a soft psychological notion irreconcilable with the quantitative realities of physics bergson who gained fame as a philosopher by arguing that time should not be understood exclusively through the lens of science criticized einstein s theory of time for being a metaphysics grafted on to science one that ignored the intuitive aspects of time the physicist and the philosopher tells the remarkable story of how this explosive debate transformed our understanding of time and drove a rift between science and the humanities that persists today jimena canales introduces readers to the revolutionary ideas of einstein and bergson describes how they dramatically collided in paris and traces how this clash of worldviews reverberated across the twentieth century she shows how it provoked responses from figures such as bertrand russell and martin heidegger and carried repercussions for american pragmatism logical positivism phenomenology and quantum mechanics canales explains how the new technologies of the period such as wristwatches radio and film helped to shape people s conceptions of time and further polarized the public debate she also discusses how bergson and einstein toward the end of their lives each reflected on his rival s legacy bergson during the nazi occupation of paris and einstein in the context of the first hydrogen bomb explosion the physicist and the philosopher is a magisterial and revealing account that shows how scientific truth was placed on trial in a divided century marked by a new sense of time

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this book investigates the nature of reality from the viewpoint of a physicist contemporary physics especially quantum theory has raised profound questions about the relationship between the methods of science and the reality these methods seek to investigate these questions and how we should answer them are the subject of this book part i examines the practices of contemporary physicists and addresses the criticisms that philosophers of science have made of these practices the doctrine of physical realism adopted by most physicists and many philosophers of science is subjected to detailed investigation in part ii when tested against recent discoveries and developments in physics it is shown to be in considerable difficulty part iii explores the consequences of this for our understanding of what science can seek to know of reality and concludes by outlining the position contemporary physics indicates we should take on the nature of reality generally considered

this book is written by a philosopher for other philosophers and for that section of the reading public who buy in large quantities and no doubt devour with great earnestness the popular books written by scientists for their enlightenment we common readers to adapt a phrase from samuel johnson are fitted neither to criticize physical theories nor to decide what precisely are their implications we are dependent upon the scientists for an exposition of those developments which so we find them proclaiming have important and far reaching consequences for philosophy unfortunately however our popular expositors do not always serve us very well the two who are most widely read in this country are sir arthur eddington and sir james jeans they are not always reliable guides their influence has been considerable upon the reading public upon theologians and upon preachers they have even misled philosopher who should have known better accordingly it has seemed to me to be worth while to examine in some detail the philosophical views that they have put forth and to criticize the grounds upon which these views are based

in the post quantum mechanics era few physicists if any have matched julian schwinger in contributions to and influence on the development of physics a deep and provocative thinker schwinger left his indelible mark on all areas of theoretical physics an eloquent lecturer and immensely successful mentor he was gentle intensely private and known for being modest about everything except his physics this book is a collection of talks in memory of him by some of his contemporaries and his former students a klein f dyson b dewitt w kohn d saxon p c martin k johnson s deser r finkelstein y j ng h feshbach l brown s glashow k a milton and c n yang from it one can get a glimpse of julian schwinger the physicist the teacher and the man altogether this book is a must for all physicists physics students and others who are interested in great legends

the fundamental conceptions of twentieth century physics have profoundly influenced almost every field of modern thought and activity quantum theory relativity and the modern ideas on the structure of matter have contributed to a deeper understanding of nature and they will probably rank in history among the greatest intellectual achievements of all time the purpose of our symposium was to review in historical perspective the current horizons of the major conceptual structures of the physics of this century professors abdu salom and hendrik casimir in their remarks at the opening of the symposium have referred to its origin and planning our original plan was to hold a two week symposium on the different aspects of five principal themes 1 space time and geometry including the structure of the universe and the theory of

gravitation 2 quantum theory including the development of quantum mechanics and quantum field theory 3 statistical description of nature including the discussion of equilibrium and non equilibrium phenomena and the application of these ideas to the evolution of biological structure 4 the structure of matter including the discussion in a unified perspective of atoms molecules nuclei elementary particles and the physics of condensed matter and finally 5 physical description and epistemology including the distinction between classical and quantum descriptions and the epistemological and philosophical problems raised by them

thomas grissom explains what physics really is the science of understanding how everything in the universe works this book tells the unfolding story of our attempt to quantify the material world and to conceptualize the nature of physical laws

a mind over matter is a biography of the nobel prize winning theoretical physicist philip w anderson anderson is widely regarded as one of the most accomplished and influential physicists of the second half of the twentieth century unlike the physicists who appear on television or write popular books anderson studied the physics of the very many i e the science of how vast numbers of atoms conspire together to create everything from liquid water to sparkling diamonds and from semiconductors essential for cell phones and computers to superconductors essential for mri machines more than any other single person anderson transformed the patchwork field of solid state physics into the intellectually coherent discipline now called condensed matter physics he developed important concepts that transcended physics and influenced the scientifically literate public through his essays and articles book jacket

this magnificent account of the coming of age of physics in america has been heralded as the best introduction to the history of science in the united states unsurpassed in its breadth and literary style kevles s account portrays the brilliant scientists who became a powerful force in bringing the world into a revolutionary new era the book ranges widely as it links these exciting developments to the social cultural and political changes that occurred from the post civil war years to the present throughout kevles keeps his eye on the central question of how an avowedly elitist enterprise grew and prospered in a democratic culture in this new edition the author has brought the story up to date by providing an extensive authoritative and colorful account of the superconducting super collider from its origins in the international

competition and intellectual needs of high energy particle physics through its establishment as a multibillion dollar project to its termination in 1993 as a result of angry opposition within the american physics community and the congress

the physicist and the philosopher explores the nature of time the meaning of relativity and the place of philosophical thought in a scientific age canales aims to reposition einstein s work in a field of disputation and give bergson back the significance he had in his contemporaries minds cathryn carson university of california berkeley like a stone cast on still waters the einstein bergson debate on the nature of time set off ever widening ripples in physics and philosophy but also in art politics and religion in this fascinating book canales has written a kind of alternative intellectual history of the interwar decades of the twentieth century one full of color and improbable conjunctions of people and ideas lorraine daston max planck institute for the history of science berlin is time too important to be left to the physicists and their measuring devices that was the issue at stake in a 1922 debate between albert einstein and philosopher henri bergson celebrated at the time and wonderfully recovered in jimena canales s new book a fascinating look at a pivotal moment in how we think about one of the most fundamental features of the universe sean carroll author of from eternity to here the quest for the ultimate theory of time sometimes past battles have repercussions that resonate long after memories have faded in dramatic fashion jimena canales demonstrates how a seemingly forgotten debate between einstein and bergson about the enigma of time changed the course of intellectual history palle yourgrau brandeis university whether readers side with einstein s physics or bergson s philosophy isn t the most important thing this book opens up new ways of thinking about the relationship between science and the humanities that unsettle both gerald holton harvard university this exciting hugely interesting book opens out from a short but critical encounter between the philosopher henri bergson and the physicist albert einstein to consider their philosophies and the effects of their argument on the modern idea of time canales turns what is at first sight a limited debate into a major transatlantic encounter of profound implications well researched well argued and elegant the physicist and the philosopher is a first rate work of scholarship stefanos geroulanos new york university the physicist and the philosopher is a lively and engaging account of the meaning of time in the twentieth century canales uses the 1922 debate between albert einstein and henri bergson as a starting point from which to discuss an astonishing array of thinkers technologies and cultural developments the book is an innovative rich and almost encyclopedic exploration of a crucially important question edward baring author of the young derrida and french philosophy 1945 1968

subtle is the lord is widely recognized as the definitive scientific biography of albert einstein the late abraham pais was a distinguished physicist turned historian who knew einstein both professionally and personally in the last years of his life his biography combines a profound understanding of einstein s work with personal recollections from their years of acquaintance illuminating the man through the development of his scientific thought pais examines the formulation of einstein s theories of relativity his work on brownian motion and his response to quantum theory with authority and precision the profound transformation einstein s ideas effected on the physics of the turn of the century is here laid out for the serious reader pais also fills many gaps in what we know of einstein s life his interest in philosophy his concern with jewish destiny and his opinions of great figures from newton to freud this remarkable volume written by a physicist who mingled in einstein s scientific circle forms a timeless and classic biography of the towering figure of twentieth century science

the name of lev davidovich landau is widely known as that of one of the greatest twentieth century physicists a brilliant teacher to those pupils he carefully chose notoriously controversial in his outlook and opinions the combination of his outstanding intellect and striking personality brought him almost legendary fame this volume contains letters papers and recollections by friends and pupils describing landau s views of science culture and life and provides the reader with a vivid portrait of a remarkable man

first published in 1974 this groundbreaking volume relates field theory of altered states of consciousness and compares the surprisingly similar views of mediums mystics and physicists when renowned psychologist lawrence leshan first explored clairvoyance and precognition it shook his belief in everyday reality as a result it led him to postulate other states of consciousness which he calls clairvoyant reality and transpsychic reality although leshan was trained in the traditional scientific method he discovered that these altered realities including the knowledge of future events the ability to heal from great distances and other paranormal phenomena operated according to their own laws filled with mesmerizing case examples quotations and observations from leshan s own personal experience the medium the mystic and the physicist includes leshan s essay human survival on biological death where he brings a fresh perspective to the theory of the afterlife a classic guide for the study of parapsychology readers will be intrigued by this collection of unique ideas a classic in the field often thought of as the author s best work author is renowned as a psychologist and a leader in

the modern study of mind body interaction allworth press an imprint of skyhorse publishing publishes a broad range of books on the visual and performing arts with emphasis on the business of art our titles cover subjects such as graphic design theater branding fine art photography interior design writing acting film how to start careers business and legal forms business practices and more while we don't aspire to publish a new york times bestseller or a national bestseller we are deeply committed to quality books that help creative professionals succeed and thrive we often publish in areas overlooked by other publishers and welcome the author whose expertise can help our audience of readers

a clear and succinct account of what physics fundamentally explains about the universe choice how do students learn about physics without picking up a 1 000 page textbook chock full of complicated equations the physicist's world is the answer here thomas grissom explains clearly and succinctly what physics really is the science of understanding how everything in the universe moves from the earliest efforts by pre socratic philosophers contemplating motion to the principal developments of physics through the end of the twentieth century grissom tells the unfolding story of our attempt to quantify the material world and to conceptualize the nature of physical laws through the centuries questions about why things move proved to be unanswerable in any absolute satisfying way instead the question became how things move a direction of thought that led to the rise of modern science physics emerged as a mathematical description of the motion of matter and energy a description believed to be complete and exact limited only by the precision of measurement grissom shows that in one of the great intellectual ironies advancements in twentieth century physics affirmed instead that this quantitative theory was capable of discovering its own limits there is only so much that physics can reveal about the world this is physics for the thinking person especially students who enjoy learning concepts histories and interpretations without becoming mired in complex mathematical detail a concise survey of the field of physics grissom's book offers students and professionals alike a unique perspective on what physicists do how physics is done and how physicists view the world

a nobel prize winning physicist illuminates how physicists think about and do physics what principles guide physicists ways of thinking and the practice and culture of the discipline in the physicist's way the nobel prize winning physicist p j e peebles argues that definite assumptions underpin the working physicist's approach the elements of which are learned organically by incoming generations of students and shared across the field peebles outlines these basic principles

elucidating how physicists apply their approach to a broad range of topics from quantum physics to the physics of the expanding universe after discussing physicists demanding tests of the fundamental theories of quantum physics and relativistic cosmology and how physicists think about the puzzling lack of consistency between the two pebbles considers the sociology of the field and where physics might be headed engaging throughout with ideas developed by scientists philosophers and historians he elucidates the unique place physics holds in the natural sciences for the ability to discover theories that make definite predictions that agree with what can be observed the physicist s way offers an enlightening perspective on how physicists think about and approach the practice of physics

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Introduction

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