

Quantum Physics at the Einstein Meets Magritte Conference

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During 29 May–3 June 1995 scientists and scholars from many different disciplines gathered in Brussels at the international conference ‘Einstein meets Magritte’. The meeting between Einstein and Magritte represented an experiment, a hope to put into practice the many programmatic appeals that have been formulated in recent decades to cut across disciplinary boundaries. The experiment consisted in bringing together creative individuals who had already in their own distinctive ways taken paths toward interdisciplinarity—transdisciplinarity—albeit in different directions. In bringing them together, the organizers invited them to set up a dialogue between different attitudes and integrate the more relevant insights into a new perspective on global change. A number of invited speakers agreed to act as initiators in attracting attention to various problems, around which workshops were set up.

Workshop 1: Science, Society, and the University. Adolf Grunbaum, Rom Harré, Barbara Herrnstein-Smith, Ilya Prigogine, Linda Schele, John Zimon.

Workshop 2: The Nature of Life and Death. William Calvin, Zygmunt Bauman, Paul Devroey, Robert Edwards, Chris Langton, Francisco Varela, Linda Schele.

Workshop 3: Worldviews and the Problem of Synthesis. Diederik Aerts, William Calvin, Constantin Piron, Robert Pirsig, Nair Ranjit, Bas Van Fraassen, Jan Van der Veken.

Workshop 4: A World in Transition. Diederik Aerts, Brain Arthur, Robert Pirsig, Riccardo Petrella, Nair Ranjit, Heinz Von Foerster.

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Contributed papers were presented in five parallel sessions and two satellite symposia, which were organized in 'streams' designated according to the colors of the rainbow. A red stream explored science and art. An orange stream considered both university and society, and social and cultural studies of the sciences. A yellow stream investigated worldviews and the problem of synthesis. A green stream grouped together controversies on the nature of life and death, and moved onto man and nature, global change and the world in transition. A blue stream started with meta-debates and flowed off into a mosaic of discussions. A first satellite symposium constituted the indigo stream, centered around quantum physics and the nature of reality. A second satellite symposium provided an overview of state-of-art general systems theory and cybernetics and constituted the violet stream.

The technical and professional physics papers presented in the indigo stream around the theme 'Quantum Physics and the Nature of Reality' are collected in this special issue of *International Journal of Theoretical Physics*.