

Report of the Inter-Union Commission for the History and Philosophy of Physics (IUPAP and IUHPST/DHST)

October 2021- October 2024

Names and affiliation of officers:

Jaume Navarro, President (Ikerbasque and University of the Basque Country)

Roberto Lalli, Vice-President (Max Planck Institute for the History of Science)

Gisela Mateos, Secretary (UNAM, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México)

Joseph D. Martin, Treasurer (University of Durham)

Connemara Doran, Research Director (Harvard University)

Climério Paulo da Silva Neto, Communications Director (UFBA, Universidade Federal da Bahia)

The establishment of the (IUHPST/DIST – IUPAP) Inter-Union Commission for the History and Philosophy of Physics was ratified in October 2021 during the 30th IUPAP General Assembly. It was the result of a Memorandum of Understanding signed by the presidents of the IUPAP and of the Division of History of Science and Technology of the International Union of History and Philosophy of Science and Technology (IUHPST/DHST). The General Assembly approved this Commission to become an IUPAP Affiliated Commission on the History and Philosophy of Physics (AC6).

History of IUPAP and IUPAP Centenary

Since its establishment the AC6 has coordinated the historical research to publish an edited volume on the history of IUPAP to be published on the occasion of the centenary of the Union with Oxford University Press.

This entailed:

- The coordination of the digitalization of the large majority of the archives of IUPAP, held at the Center for the History of Science in Stockholm, plus various folders of the archive of the previous IUPAP general secretary and president Kerwin, stored at the University of Laval. The digitalization was finalized by the end of November 2021
- The organization of two workshops on the history of IUPAP organized by Roberto Lalli (online) and Jaume Navarro (in-person, San Sebastian, Spain), with historians and physicists interested in the project.
 - Online workshop: *IUPAP History Project*, 9-10 December 2021, 20 speakers plus 10 attendants.
 - In-person workshop: *One hundred years of the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics. A workshop*, 20-22 October 2022, 20

participants. The workshop was sponsored by IUPAP and the Donostia International Physics Center (DIPC).

<https://www.uik.eus/es/curso/one-hundred-years-iupap-workshop>

- The organization and preparation of three historical talks presented at the IUPAP Centennial Symposium, 11-13 July 2022, ICTP, Trieste.
- The publication with Oxford University Press of the Open Access book **Globalizing Physics One Hundred Years of the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics**, edited by Roberto Lalli and Jaume Navarro, in July 2024
<https://global.oup.com/academic/product/globalizing-physics-9780198878681?cc=es&lang=en&>
- The publication of two related essays in Nature Physics Reviews (<https://www.nature.com/articles/s42254-022-00503-w>) and Nature (forthcoming on September 19)

Sponsoring

In June 2022, the IUCHPP sponsored three early career historians of science to attend the 4th International Conference on the History of Physics organized in Dublin. This series of conferences tries to set into dialogue professional historians of physics with physicists “with an interest in the history of physics”:

<https://www.iopconferences.org/iop/frontend/reg/tAgendaWebsite.csp?pageID=1031146&eventID=1662&mainFramePage=dailyagenda.csp&mode=&CSPCHD=000001000000Isf99y111c3gDnN3LsGwKQa6rOt9b3RwxoJS7W>

Following the tradition of early career conferences initiated by the American Institute of Physics two decades ago, the IUCHPP has co-sponsored the 2023 edition, which took place at the Niels Bohr Institute, in Copenhagen (Denmark) from August 31st to September 2nd. Materials from this workshop, including the ceremony to award the first Early Career Prize mentioned below can be found in the [volume 55 \(2023\) No. 2](#) of the AIP History Newsletter

New Prize on the History and Philosophy of Physics

In the spring of 2022, the IUCHPP agreed with IUPAP to create an early career prize in the history and philosophy of physics, along the lines of other early career prizes given by IUPAP. This first edition was launched in 2023 and was awarded to Jean-Philippe Martinez:

<https://www.iuchpp.org/prize>

The nomination for the prizes 2024 and 2025 will be launched in late 2024 and the two prizes will be awarded at the 6th AIP Early-Career Conference for Historians of the

Physical Sciences, to be held in Salvador da Bahia on August 4-9, 2025.

Participation to conferences

We have submitted three symposia that have been included in the programs of the IUHPS/DHST 25th International Congress on the History of Science and Technology, to be held in Dunedin, New Zealand, from 29 June to 5 July 2025. The symposia's titles are: The Quantum Century, 1925-2024, Beyond Knabenphysik: Women in the history of quantum physics, Cold Wars and International Physics and co-organized the symposium: New historiographical proposals in the history of physics.

The IUCHPP will also promote the [Quantum Century Working group at the Consortium for History of Science, Technology and Medicine](#) to mark the Centenary of Quantum Mechanics. The group will meet on the third or fourth Tuesday of each month to discuss preprints and recent publications related to the history of Quantum Mechanics.