



Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

The Jacques Loeb Centre For the History and Philosophy of the Life Sciences

Silvan (Sam) Schweber (Brandeis and Harvard University, USA)

Hans Bethe and Physics of/in the 20th Century

Some facets of Hans Bethe's life will be presented to highlight aspects of the history of physics during the twentieth century. In particular, some characteristics of quantum field theory and of the development of neo-liberalism will be reviewed in order to make some observations regarding certain "top down" views in condensed matter physics in postmodernity.

About the lecturer: Silvan (Sam) obtained a PhD in Physics from Princeton University in 1952. In the mid 1970's his research interests shifted from physics to the history of science. He has written extensively on Charles Darwin and 19th century evolutionary theories and since the mid 1980's on the history of physics during the 20th century. He is the author of *QED and the Men Who Made It*, *Bethe and Oppenheimer and the Moral Responsibility of Scientists*, *Einstein and Oppenheimer: The Meaning of Genius*, and *Nuclear Forces: The Making of the Physicist Hans Bethe*. In 2005 he retired from Brandeis as the Koret Professor of the History of Ideas and Professor of Physics, emeritus. Since 1981 he has been an Associate in the department of the history of Science at Harvard University.

April 29th (Monday)

Building 39 (Biology), Room 106 (de Picciotto conference room),
16:15 to 17:45.

Coffee & refreshments will be available at 16:00

About the Seminars: The Jacques Loeb Centre seminars provide an interdisciplinary forum, in which historians and philosophers of science, as well as scientists, present and discuss new research related to science with a special focus on the life sciences. Case studies and surveys examine the impact of political, socio-economic and personal factors on the conduct of science, the ethics of research, and the causes of progress and setbacks. **Faculty and students from all disciplines are invited!**

For further information, updates, and reminders please join our mailing list simply by sending a mail requesting to join or simply by [clicking here](#).

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