

Colloquium

The Theories of Relativity, Time, and Simultaneity During and After Einstein's 1922 Visit to Paris

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In April 1922, amid exciting times for physics and troubled post-War era in international relations, Albert Einstein visited Paris and interacted extensively with an illustrious section of the French academia. In overfilled sessions at the Collège de France and the Sorbonne, Einstein explained his theories of relativity to prominent physicists, mathematicians and philosophers, who listened, debated, questioned and explored facets of relativity. The 1922 visit and discussions had echoes in the life and works of many who participated, particularly decisive for Einstein and the philosopher Henri Bergson. My colloquium examines some aspects of fundamental physics discussed and debated in that eventful visit, focusing on Bergson's sharp critique of Einstein's relativity, linking prominent French physicists and mathematicians Poincaré, Langevin, Painlevé, Hadamard, Becquerel, Sagnac, and Kastler. Now, nearly a century after the visit, we are able to conclude the debate with logical clarity and a surprising outcome, aided by a wealth of empirical evidence.

Thursday, Sep 11th 2019

11:30 AM (Tea/Coffee at 11:00 AM)

Auditorium, TIFR-H