

The Show

The organizers of the workshop *Theoretical and experimental aspects of the spin-statistics connection and related symmetries* (SpinStat2008) that takes place in Trieste from Oct. 21st until Oct. 25th 2008, have set up a small **scientific-literary event for the general public**, which is especially tuned to suit the taste of high-school students. The actress Michela Vitali shall read selections from the book by Gamow: the famous theorist Sir Michael Berry (University of Bristol) shall act as "the professor" and he shall provide tasty comments. Ennio Gozzi – a theorist as well, and professor at the Department of Theoretical Physics of the University of Trieste – shall translate into Italian.

Before the show, Prof. Robert Hilborn (University of Texas, Dallas) shall endeavour to explain as clearly as possible the meaning of the physics discussed by the scientists in the workshop.

For further information

Erica Novacco +39 040 5583367
Trieste erica.novacco@ts.infn.it

Secretariat
SPINSTAT 2008
from Oct. 20 until Oct. 25 2008
at Stazione Marittima
PHONE +39 040 304988

Workshop Web Site:

<http://www.ts.infn.it/eventi/spinstat2008/>

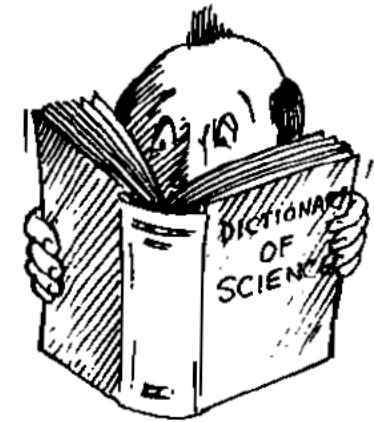
Theoretical and experimental aspects of
the spin-statistics connection and related symmetries

Trieste, Italy - October 21-25, 2008 - Stazione Marittima Conference Center



The NEW World of Mr. Tompkins

A Fantastic Journey into the
Mysteries of the Univers



October 23, 2008

Congress Centre
"Stazione Marittima"
Oceania Room

Organized by:

INFN - Sezione di Trieste



Università di Trieste
Dipartimento di Fisica
Dipartimento di Fisica Teorica



ISTITUTO NAZIONALE DI FISICA NUCLEARE
SEZIONE DI TRIESTE

c/o Dipartimento di Fisica
Via Alfonso Valerio, 2 – 34127 Trieste
Tel. 040 558 3367 – 040 558 3375

c/o Area Science Park
Padriciano, 99 – 34012 Trieste
Tel. n. 040 375 6220 – 040 375 6259

<http://www.ts.infn.it>

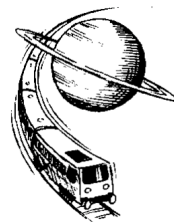
In the winter of 1938 the young physicist **George Gamow** – who at the early age of thirty was already famous among scientists for his wit as well as for his intelligence – wrote a scientifically fantastic story, about the curvature of space in an expanding universe. In this imaginary universe some phenomena that in our reality are **barely perceptible**, are **greatly exaggerated**, to such an extent that they are **easily observed** by the hero of the story, C.G.H. Tompkins, a bank clerk interested in modern science.

C.P.Snow – then editor of the scientific magazine *Discovery* – published by Cambridge University Press – took notice and asked Gamow to send other stories. These stories were eventually published in book form under the title *Mr. Tompkins in Wonderland*. This book was soon followed by *Mr. Tompkins Explores the Atom*: a little later the books were published together with the title *Mr. Tompkins, the Atom and the Universe*.

Recently the book has been revised and adapted to the changed landscape of modern physics by Russell Stannard, and republished by Cambridge University Press (and in Italy by Zanichelli)

Thursday October 23rd 2008

- **5:00 PM**
Public conference
prof. Robert Hilborn (english)
(University of Texas - Dallas)
History and Meaning of Pauli Exclusion Principle
- **6:00 – 7:30 PM**
Fantastic Journey into the Mysteries of the Universe (english and italian)
a commented reading from
"The NEW World of Mr. Tompkins"



Organizing committee:

**Edoardo Milotti, Ennio Gozzi,
Erica Novacco**

"...These thoughts were interrupted as he became aware the he was uncomfortable ... To his astonishment he found himself lying on a slab of rock out in the open. The hotel had vanished!..

...It was then it dawned on him that the rock he was on had no visible means of support. It was a planet!...

...To his great surprise and relief it was at that moment he almost bumped into the legs of a familiar figure. It was the professor

Key participants:

Sir Michael Berry is an illustrious scientist, whose name is often linked to a quantum phenomenon called "Berry's phase". Berry's phase arises from subtle geometrical effects, and in addition to quantum mechanics it can be observed also in other physical contexts, such as in optics.

Robert Hilborn: his research interests include lasers, atomic and molecular spectroscopy, and nonlinear dynamic systems. He has earned the American Physical Society prize for research in an undergraduate institution and the American Association of Physics Teachers' Distinguished Service Citation. He is program head of the Department of Science/Mathematics Education of the University of Texas - Dallas.

Michela Vitali is an actress and author who has written much material for radio, and also for the theatre. She appears in radio and tv programs broadcast by Radio Capodistria, and collaborates with the italian broadcasting company RAI.

The book (italian translation):

G. Gamow e R. Stannard:
"II NUOVO MONDO di Mr. Tompkins",
collana Le Ellissi, Zanichelli 2005.