

Dear Reader,

This Newsletter is intended for all SPS members, researchers, industries, students, interested specialists and physics friends. Feel free to share this Newsletter within your community, and follow this [link](#) if you want to add a person to our mailing list.

If you wish to give your contribution with news or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact me at: margherita.boselli@cern.ch

Kind regards,

Margherita Boselli

WHAT'S NEW IN SWITZERLAND

The SPS Annual Meeting is about to start

The [next SPS Annual Meeting](#) will be held from 9 to 13 September 2024 at the Campus Centre of the ETH Zurich.

This year's meeting will open on Monday 9 September with the third edition of the session "**Physics Funding in Switzerland**". In the afternoon we will continue with the **General Assembly**, followed by a symposium in honour of [Louis de Broglie: 100 years of wave-particle duality](#). After the symposium, **Anne l'Huillier** (Lund University, Sweden), Nobel Laureate 2023, will give a public lecture jointly organised by the SPS and the SSPh: **The route to attosecond pulses**.

On Tuesday 10 September, the third edition of the [Women in Physics Career Symposium](#) will take place. Finally, on Friday 13 September, the new [Energy and Sustainability](#) Section will hold its inaugural meeting.

The full programme is available in the [latest issue of the SPS Communications](#).



Annual Meeting of the Swiss Physical Society
9 - 13 September 2024, ETH Zürich

in collaboration with
SPS, SSPh, SSPh, Department Physics - ETH Zürich

Sessions	Plenary Speakers
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Accelerator Science and TechnologyApplied Physics, Plasma PhysicsAtomic Physics & Quantum OpticsBiophysics and Soft MatterCondensed Matter PhysicsExcitation and photonics/nanoscience of quantum materialsGravitational WavesHistory and Philosophy of PhysicsMaterials: Paths for materials researchNuclear ScienceParticle Physics & AstrophysicsPhysics EducationSpectroscopy and Magnetism at the NanoscaleStatistics: The use of physics and physicists in developing a product?Women in Physics Career SymposiumPoster Session	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Giuseppe Baffert, Universität ZürichInternational Symposium: Strong Matter: From the quark-hadron transition to the neutron starMatthew E. Lewis, Theodor-Heuss-Center BaselAndreas Mielke and Hans-Joachim Durr, Universität ZürichKristen Weiland, PSL, Villigen & EPFL LausanneAndreas Mielke, Universität ZürichSteve Reiche, PSI, VilligenAndreas Mielke, ETH ZürichAndreas Mielke, ETH ZürichLeandro Salcedo, ETH ZürichMichael Thoenen, EPFL LausannePhysics of the early universe and the stability frontier of particle physicsAndreas Mielke, ETH ZürichQuantum Science and Superconducting Circuits

Additional Events

- Energy and Sustainability Inaugural Session
- General Assembly and Award Ceremony
- Scientific Equipment and Book Exchange
- Conference Dinner

Public Lecture ****

- Anne l'Huillier, Lund University (Sweden), Nobel Laureate 2023
- The route to attosecond pulses

Public Symposium: Louis de Broglie - 100 years wave / particle dualism

- Friedrich-Karl Thoenen, Universität Basel
- Thomas Baumbach, ETH Zürich
- Philippe Trüben, Universität Basel
- Meeting: Bernolung, EPFL

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION 1 May 2024 **DEADLINES** **REGISTRATION & PAYMENT** 15 August 2024

More information: www.sps.ch

Award Ceremony of the Charpak-Ritz Prize 2024

The [Charpak-Ritz Prize 2024 is awarded to Frédéric Mila](#) for his contributions to the theory of strongly correlated systems ranging from high-temperature superconductors to frustrated quantum magnets.

Frédéric Mila is a condensed matter theorist at EPFL. His work is characterised by continuous and fruitful collaborations with experimental groups active in France, Switzerland, Japan and the USA. He is currently a leading figure in the field of frustrated magnetism.

The award ceremony of the 2024 Charpak-Ritz Prize will take place during the 2024 edition of the ["Journée de la matière condensée"](#): the main conference on



condensed matter physics in France. The 19th edition of the "[Journée de la matière condensée](#)" will be held in Marseille from 28 to 31 October 2024. Registration is still open. Frédéric Mila will give a plenary lecture on Wednesday 30 October.

The Charpak-Ritz Prize was created in 2016 by the Swiss Physical Society and the French Physical Society to strengthen the collaboration between the two institutions. This prize honours Georges Charpak and Walther Ritz, two French and Swiss physicists who made fundamental contributions to the discipline.

Image: portrait of Frédéric Mila, photo from SFP.

Obituary of Thomas Maurice Rice

[Professor Thomas Maurice Rice passed away](#) on 18 July 2024.

Born in Ireland in 1939, Professor Rice began his career in physics as an undergraduate at University College, Dublin, and obtained his PhD at Churchill College, Cambridge. After a brilliant academic career in the USA, he moved to ETH Zurich in 1981, where he was [Full Professor of Theoretical Physics](#) until his retirement in 2004.



His research interests were in the theoretical explanation of condensed matter physics. Since his appointment as Professor at ETH Zurich, he has focused on the theory of strongly correlated fermions in the microscopic theory of high-temperature superconductors. During his long career he became an honorary member of the Royal Irish Academy, the National Academy of Sciences in the USA and a Fellow of the Royal Society. He was awarded prestigious prizes and mentored generations of scientists who will continue his work.

Image: portrait of Rice, photo from ETH.

MANEP Winter school 2025

The [MANEP Winter School 2025](#) will take place from **12 to 17 January 2025 in Saas-Fee**, Switzerland. The school, entitled "New frontiers in Quantum Materials in equilibrium and beyond", is open to PhD students, post-doctoral fellows and researchers with a background in general condensed matter. It combines introductory courses with more specialised lectures in the field of correlated quantum materials.



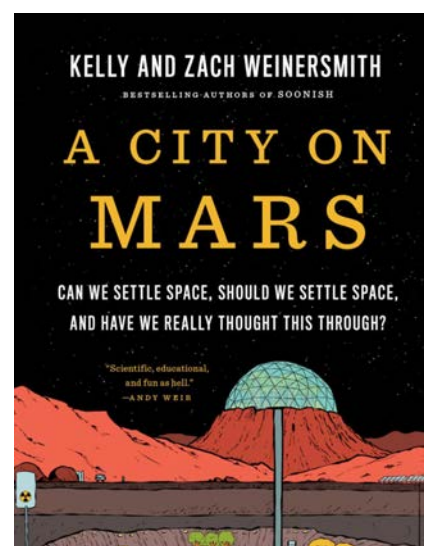
The 2025 edition of the school will be dedicated to the understanding and creation of new quantum phases in strongly correlated materials in and out of equilibrium.

MANEP schools are known for combining high level education with a warm and interactive atmosphere between participants, lecturers and organisers. For more information, please visit this [website](#). Registration is open until 15 October.

Public Conference "A City on Mars"

A public conference entitled "A city on Mars: Can We Settle Space, Should We Settle Space, and Have We Really Thought This Through?" will take place on **4 September** at 3 pm in the Science2 building of the **University of Geneva**.

This talk, given by Zach Weinersmith, will cover as many topics as possible in the field of space settlement, from geology to medicine, psychology, law, economics and politics, in an attempt to give the most realistic assessment of the current state of affairs, while at the same time dispelling a number of points of confusion that are common in the public discourse on



space exploration.



Zach Weinersmith is best known for drawing the Saturday Morning Breakfast Cereal comic strip and a number of popular pop science books. His most recent book is *A City on Mars*, co-authored with his wife, Dr Kelly Weinersmith.

The need to improve science teaching in Geneva's secondary schools

An article published on 18 August 2024 in the newspaper "Le Temps" discusses the need to improve science teaching at the secondary level in Geneva, the "Collège de Genève". The high school in Geneva provides students with a broad cultural background that allows them to choose any university curriculum. However, the foundation in mathematics and experimental science that students acquire in high school is not sufficient to ensure a smooth transition to university, particularly in the medical and STEM subjects.

The Geneva Department of Public Education is currently working on a reform of the high school curriculum to implement the new federal guidelines on maturity. This will be the perfect opportunity to improve the STEM education of Geneva's students.

This article follows on from a **petition** to the Conseil Général, promoted by a group of teachers, to improve science education in Geneva's high schools. This petition provides some guidelines for tackling this problem.

An interesting perspective on the power of images

EPFL recently published an **insightful interview** with Professor Sabine Süsstrunk, a computer scientist, head of the **Images and Visual Representation Laboratory at EPFL** and President of the Swiss Science Council.



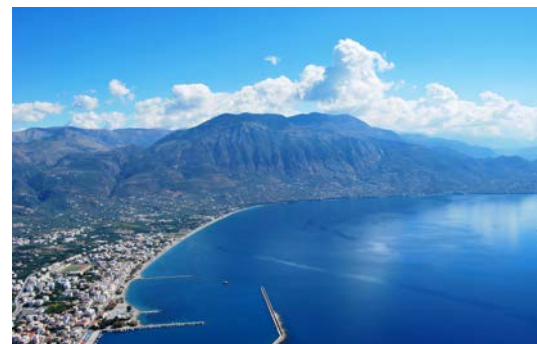
The article discusses the central role of **imaging** in science and technology, and the benefits and limitations of using artificial intelligence in this field.

Image: portrait of Prof. Sabine Süsstrunk, photo from EPFL.

WHAT'S NEW IN THE WORLD

M2 IC-MSQUARE 2024

The 13th Edition of the International Conference on Mathematical Modeling in the Physical Sciences, **IC-MSQUARE 2024**, will take place at the Public Cultural Center at Kalamata, Greece, from the 30th of September to the 3rd of October 2024. This conference aims to promote the knowledge and the development of high-quality research in mathematical fields that have to do with the applications of other scientific fields and the modern technological trends that appear in them.



The Swiss Physical Society (SPS) unites persons interested in physics from university, schools, research, development and industry. The SPS promotes the scientific exchange of ideas in Switzerland and with its international environment.

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