

Crossing the Disciplinary Boundaries of Physics (Bohr-100 Centennial Celebrations)

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The postwar fortunes of biophysics

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In the decades following World War II, biophysics flourished as a field. The paper will review the historical constellations that propelled this development. It will consider the scientific promise and the cultural and political appeal of the field, the careers of the scientists that were attracted to work at the intersection of physics and biology, the techniques and practices they brought with them and the institutions that supported their work. Building on this analysis, the paper will reflect on what the episode can tell us about interdisciplinary boundary crossings.

Presenter: DE CHADAREVIAN, Soraya (UCLA)

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