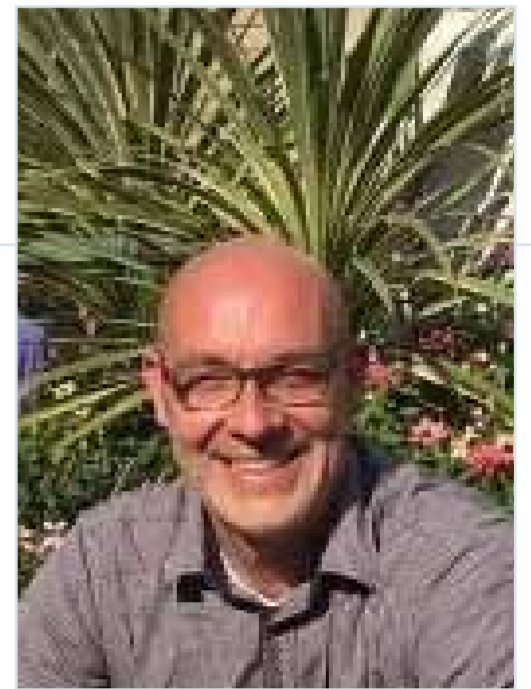


Großes Physikalisches Kolloquium an der Universität zu Köln

Dr. Oliver Passon

Bergische Universität Wuppertal



30.10.2018

16⁴⁵ Uhr / HS III

The history of early quantum theory: myth and facts



Although science teaching usually aims at imparting current practices and theories, it is often framed historically. However, this “quasi-history” often distorts the actual course of events and presents the history of science as a cumulative sequence which finally led to the acceptance of the current theories. Thus, textbooks produce a sense of participation in a certain methodological and social tradition which may be fictitious. A classic example for quasi-history is the usual account of early quantum theory (1900-1923). [1]We argue that in this case the quasi-historical narrative actually fails to establish a rational tradition because it contains severe technical misconceptions.

