

Bethe Colloquium

Jan-Willem van Holten

Nikhef

Émilie du Châtelet, physicist

Émilie du Châtelet (1706-1749) played a remarkable role in the development of early modern physics. In her monograph "Institutions de Physique" (Foundations of Physics) she integrated the work of Galileo, Huygens, Leibniz and Newton into a coherent body of ideas. She translated Newton's "Principia" into French, adding some 300 pages of comments and additional material; in particular, collaborating with Clairaut she was among the first physicists to rework Newton's theories into the modern language of Leibnizian calculus. In this talk I will focus on the "Institutions" and highlight among other things her defense of the importance of the concept of mechanical energy in analyzing physical processes.

Lecture Hall I - Physikalisches Institut - Nussallee 12 - 53115 Bonn

Thursday, November 10, 2022, at 4:15 p.m.

Hybrid talk - for the Zoom link please contact theory@physik.uni-bonn.de

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