



## **Globalizing physics: The changing roles of IUPAP in the second half of the 20th century**

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### **Abstract**

The talk gives an overview of the changing structures and functions of the IUPAP from its re-establishment after World War II until the late 20th century in relation to broad historical processes based on ongoing studies within the *IUPAP 100 history project*. IUPAP restarted its activities in 1947 after World War II had dramatically altered the social and political implications of physics research. The establishment of a new world order and the new social and political role of science led to a reconfiguration of international institutionalization of scientific cooperation and exchange. The umbrella organization of international scientific unions, the International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU), had just re-established its activities in formal cooperation with UNESCO. The new formal agreement between ICSU and UNESCO dramatically changed the nature and range of activities of IUPAP. While IUPAP had been rather inactive in the interwar period, the post-WWII period saw the emergence and rapid blossoming of various committees devoted to specific sectors of physics. After discussing the major features of this transformation, the talk chronicles main developments of the activities of IUPAP and its committees in the following decades. These highlights from the history of IUPAP demonstrate the delicate balance between scientific goals and political concerns shaping how IUPAP officers and its committees operated in different historical contexts.

### **Short Bio**

Roberto Lalli is Research Scholar at the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science in Berlin. His research focuses on the interaction of epistemic, political and social factors in the history of twentieth-century physics. After receiving a PhD in International History in 2011 at the University of Milan, he was Postdoctoral Fellow at MIT, Visiting Scholar in the Research Program on the History of the Max Planck Society and Visiting Lecturer at the Technische Universität Berlin. He has published extensively on the history of modern physics, scientific publishing, and science diplomacy. Roberto Lalli is the vice-President of the Inter-Union Commission of the History and Philosophy of Physics and he is currently coordinating together with Jaume Navarro the *IUPAP 100 history project*.