

# Arthur S. Eddington

*From Physics to Philosophy and Back Again*

27-29 May 2019, Paris, France



Facultés Libres  
de Philosophie  
et de Psychologie

PARIS RECHERCHE



Comité National Français  
d'Histoire et de Philosophie des Sciences et des Techniques

## Rationale

Arthur S. Eddington (1882-1944) certainly was the world's most famous astronomer during the interwar period. For thirty years he was the director of Cambridge Observatory and a Fellow of Trinity College. He also plunged into philosophy while discovering Einstein's general relativity in 1916. From then on he developed some personal thoughts about physics, its methods and its limits. Along with widely acclaimed scientific treatises – *The Mathematical Theory of Relativity* (1923) and *The Internal Constitution of the Stars* (1926) – Eddington published some controversial books such as *The Nature of the Physical World* (1928), *Relativity Theory of Protons and Electrons* (1936) and *The Philosophy of Physical Science* (1939). He played a major role in writing and lecturing about Einstein's theories, Paul Dirac even calling him “the fountainhead of relativity”. He is also well-known for the expeditions to observe the eclipse of May 29<sup>th</sup>, during which was measured the deflection of a ray of light passing near the Sun. The centenary of this decisive event is a great opportunity for specialists to gather in Paris from May 27<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

This international conference aims to bring together physicists, philosophers and historians. It is jointly organised by IPC-Facultés Libres de Philosophie et de Psychologie and Paris Observatory, in partnership with the International Astronomical Union, the Institut d'Astrophysique de Paris, the British Society for the History of Science, and Trinity College (University of Cambridge).

Chair of the Local Organising Committee: Dr Florian Laguens ([flaguens@ipc-paris.fr](mailto:flaguens@ipc-paris.fr)).

[www.eddingtonstudies.org](http://www.eddingtonstudies.org)

## Scientific Organising Committee

Prof. John D. Barrow, FRS, FRAS (UK)	Dr Florian Laguens (France)
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## Call for papers

As the conference is to address scientific, historical, and philosophical topics, submitted contributions (30 min, questions included) may deal with Eddington's astronomical and later cosmological research, his promotion of the expanding universe model, his original theory unifying relativity and quantum mechanics, his internationalism or his Quakerism, his involvement in various scientific organisations, or of course the 1919 eclipse. Examining his relationships and interactions with other major characters of the period may also provide renewed insights into his life and achievements. Last but not least, his personal philosophy would surely deserve some proper attention.

The proceedings will tentatively be published by Cambridge University Press.

Title and abstract (approximately 300 words) should be sent to [flaguens@ipc-paris.fr](mailto:flaguens@ipc-paris.fr).

Language: English (preferably) or French.

## Registration

Opening of registration : 1 February 2019.

Deadline for registration : 30 April 2019.

## Venue

Institut d'Astrophysique de Paris, Henri Mineur Amphitheatre.  
98 bis boulevard Arago, 75014 Paris, France.

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