PHYSICAL READING

Delta ITP scholars and topics can also be found in bookshops. Five highlights and a list of further recommendations.

Denken is verrukkelijk

A tragic power couple: that’s how you can describe Paul Ehrenfest and Tania Afanassjewa. Ehrenfest was a gifted teacher, one of Einstein’s beloved sounding boards, and recogniser of young talent. Afanassjewa was an accomplished physicist in her own right and a progressive thinker in the field of mathematics education. But whereas Afanassjewa was under-valued by society because she was a woman, Ehrenfest failed to value himself, as this double biography shows.

Author: Margriet van der Heijden
Publisher: Prometheus
ISBN: 9789035141902
Price: € 39.99

De race tegen de schildpad

Mathematical physicist Marcel Vonk’s De race tegen de schildpad (The Race Against the Turtle) focuses on thought experiments, from Maxwell’s demon to Schrödinger’s cat. New Scientist chose the book as its Book of the Month in September 2020, judging that, as a writer, Vonk ‘measures up to the greatest international names in science books, such as Brian Greene, Carlo Rovelli, Lawrence Krauss, and Stephen Hawking’.

Author: Marcel Vonk
Publisher: Unieboek | Het Spectrum
ISBN: 9789000369843
Price: € 20.99
E-book price: € 12.99

Very Special Relativity: An Illustrated Guide

According to the special theory of relativity, nothing can travel faster than light, and a fast-moving clock ticks slower than a clock that doesn’t move. But why is that? In Very Special Relativity: An Illustrated Guide, professor of theoretical physics Sander Bais explains Albert Einstein’s first great feat to a wide audience using clear diagrams.

Author: Sander Bais
Publisher: Harvard University Press
ISBN: 9789462982789
Price: approx. € 30.-

Het allerkleinste

After Robbert Dijkgraaf introduced television viewers to particle physics and quantum mechanics in his television lecture Het allerkleinste (The Very Smallest), this book serves comic book readers. Young talent Dirk Ridder turned Dijkgraaf’s explanation into an unusual and colourful graphic novel, in which the pair take an imaginative journey past DNA, neutrinos, and more.

Authors: Robbert Dijkgraaf and Dirk Ridder
Publisher: Veen Media
ISBN: 9789085717188
Price: € 14.99

Also worthwhile:

In Fundamentals, American Nobel laureate Frank Wilczek presents ten fundamentals of physics; in Helgoland, Italian physicist Carlo Rovelli explains his take on quantum physics. Those looking for a somewhat more critical biography of Stephen Hawking can turn to Hawking Hawking by Charles Seife. Dutch physics heavyweight Hendrik Antoon Lorentz was recently covered in two good biographies: Hendrik Antoon Lorentz, natuurkundige (1853-1928) (Lorentz Hendrik Antoon Lorentz, physicist (1853-1928)) by Anne Kox, and Lorentz by Frits Berends and Dirk van Delft. And in the Pocket Science series, published by New Scientist, top science journalists tackle topics such as spacetime, string theory, the end of the universe, and multiverse theories in about a hundred pages each.

Author: Ivo van Vulpen
Publisher: Yale University Press
ISBN: 9780300244182
Price: approx. € 25.-
E-book price: approx. € 16.-