

Prof. Dr. Detlef Brinkmann

October 3, 1931 (Esens/D) - February 20, 2017 (Uster/CH)

Detlef Brinkmann attended schools in Northern Germany and enrolled afterwards in 1952 at the University of Göttingen. There he passed the 'Vordiplom (BSc)' in 1954 and then transferred to the University of Zürich, where he obtained his 'Diplom' (MSc) in experimental physics in 1958. '*Nuclear magnetic resonance in gaseous Xenon*¹' was the title of his thesis carried out under the guidance of Prof. Dr. Hans Staub, which led to a PhD in 1961. Besides low energy nuclear physics at a Van-de-Graaff accelerator nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) was the primary research subject, which Hans Staub pioneered in Switzerland after he returned from Stanford in 1949. Detlef Brinkmann continued to apply NMR techniques during his postdoctoral research at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, New Jersey (USA), and further after his return to our institute in 1965. After submission of a 'Habilitationsschrift' on the '*Displacement of the Local Magnetic Field in the Nuclear Resonance of Noble Gases*²' in 1968 he served as Lecturer, became Assistant Professor in 1972, was promoted to Associate Professor in 1976 and finally to Full Professor in 1983. In 1999 he retired as Professor Emeritus.



During his many years as a professor at our institute Detlef Brinkmann led a dedicated research group, which made significant contributions to the physics of condensed matter using NMR and NQR (Nuclear Quadrupole Resonance) techniques. The wide field of his scientific work ranged from noble gases and natural minerals to synthetic substances, such as quasi-one-dimensional and super-ion conductors. Since the 1980s his research has focused on the investigation of high-temperature superconductors, especially their behavior under pressure. In this area he collaborated with the IBM Rüschlikon research laboratory and Prof. Dr. Karl Alex Müller.

In addition to his successful research, Detlef Brinkmann was also a popular academic teacher, he enthusiastically taught the introductory physics courses and engaged in didactics discussions within the European Physical Society. Since his initial course in the 1980s on the fundamentals of solid state physics at our institute it is an integral part of the physics curriculum here.

Detlef Brinkmann had an excellent and fruitful scientific network inside Switzerland (e.g. ETHZ, ABB) and outside in Europe (including MPI Stuttgart, University of Grenoble or the Kazan Federal University in the Russian Republic Tatarstan), as well as in America (Argonne National Lab, General Electric, University of Washington and the State University of New York at Albany) and Asia. Here, Detlef Brinkmann had very active research connections to Japan, Singapore and India, where he was appointed Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru Professor at the University of Hyderabad in 1999. Numerous researchers from the corresponding institutes used the good contacts to our institute for a research stay of a few months at UZH. Detlef Brinkmann served as President of the International Committee on Nuclear Quadrupole Interactions (NQI) for many years and was responsible for a series of symposia and conferences held in this field. In 2001 he received the NQI Award.

¹Translated from the German title '*Kernresonanz im gasförmigen Xenon*'

²Translated from the German title '*Verschiebung des lokalen magnetischen Feldes in der Kernresonanz von Edelgasen*'

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