Schrödinger’s Unified Field Theory: Physics by Public Relations

PAUL HALPERN, University of the Sciences in Philadelphia — We will explore the circumstances surrounding Erwin Schrödinger’s announcement in January 1947 that he had developed a comprehensive unified field theory of gravitation and electromagnetism. We will speculate on Schrödinger’s motivations for the mode and tone of his statements, consider the reaction of the international press within the context of the postwar era, and examine Einstein’s response.

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