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Abstract for an Invited Paper  
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**A Changing Dichotomy: The Conception of the Macroscopic and Microscopic Worlds in the History of Physics**

ZHIXIN WANG, Yale University

In this talk we will trace the conceptual history of micro- and macroscopicity in the context of physical science. By focusing on three distinct episodes spanning five centuries, we show the scientific and philosophical meanings of this antonym pair, despite never being far from the small and the large, have been evolving as the frontier of science advances. We analyze the intellectual and material impetus for these movements, and conclude that this conceptual history reflects the changing interaction between the natural world and humankind.