

Science and political Institutions: development of Physics in Argentina, 1940-2000

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The foundation of the Argentine Physical Association (AFA in spanish) in 1944, helped the small group of local physicists to launch different projects aiming at consolidating physics research activities and teaching in the country. Since then, most of the Argentine senior physicists - Enrique Gaviola, Teófilo Isnardi, José Balseiro, Juan José Giambiagi, Jorge Sabato, among others- had leading roles within the scientific system and contributed not only to set the basis of the new research institutions and scientific careers but also to give a social and economical content to physics research in Argentina and Latin America.

The aim of this talk is to go through some landmarks of the argentinean research institutions, focusing on conflicts, tensions, and discussions which took place among physicists, military, and politicians, and besides making a balance out of the historical path followed by Physics in Argentina.