



## John Wilson

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John Wilson is Reader in Particle Physics the University of Birmingham and is involved both in research and also in undergraduate teaching. John received his PhD in Particle Physics from Imperial College, London in 1976. He has worked on experiments at CERN, the European Laboratory for Particle Physics, all his career:

The CERN experiments include UA1 which discovered the W and Z particles, OPAL which measured electron positron annihilation with great precision and currently the ATLAS experiment at the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) which has found evidence for a Higgs-like boson. In all, he has contributed to over 300 scientific papers.

In parallel with his research and teaching, John has been involved significantly in outreach activities. He has constructed a transportable spark chamber which detects cosmic rays from outer space. Demonstrating the detector at local schools and at open public meetings gives a vivid illustration of particle detection and provides the starting point for a description and discussion of current exciting results in particle physics.

John also organises the annual Particle Physics Masterclasses at the University of Birmingham. About 150 school students spend the day hearing talks on particle physics, investigating real data from the ATLAS experiment at the CERN LHC and discussing with physicists both in Birmingham and, via a live video link, with colleagues at CERN.

This outreach work has now developed a European dimension. With colleagues at the University of Birmingham, John has joined the EU funded "Discover the COSMOS" project which aims to present existing e-Science applications in particle physics and astronomy in a readily usable manner and to foster a European wide community which uses such inquiry based learning tools.