

JAN-WILLEM VAN HOLTEN ▸ LEIDEN UNIVERSITY

# “HISPARC: AN EXPERIMENT IN SCIENCE AND EDUCATION”

FRIDAY, JANUARY 10TH @ 12:00 PM  
INTERMOUNTAIN NETWORK SCIENTIFIC CC  
(INSCC 110)

HiSPARC is a research project in the Netherlands (with branches in the UK and Denmark) with the double ambition to do science and improve science education. In the course of 10 years HiSPARC has created a network of cosmic-ray detector stations at universities and high-schools in clusters across the Netherlands. It offers research opportunities to master and PhD students in physics, it runs a program for physics teachers to do a research project with cosmic data and/or instrumentation, and it provides hands-on projects, data and educational materials for high-school students. It is also very instructive for academic researchers to learn about the challenges of high school science teaching and outreach.

Jan-Willem van Holten’s research centers around classical and quantum gravity, supersymmetry and applications to particle physics. Since 2003 he has been involved in the science-and-education project HiSPARC.

Van Holten earned a PhD from Leiden University in 1980 with his thesis on the construction of supergravity theories. He later served as a Post-doc for CERN (Geneva, Switzerland) and University of Wuppertal (Germany). Van Holten has served as a permanent staff member for the Dutch National Institute for Subatomic Physics (NIKHEF) since 1985 and currently serves as a Professor of Theoretical Physics at Leiden University. He also served as a Professor of Theoretical Physics at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (1999-2009).



Jan-Willem van Holten