

History of NORDITA

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NORDITA

and the

Niels Bohr International Academy

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The Nordic Countries

(Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden)

- From a distance they appear similar
Have much common history
- Different geography
- Different economies
- Different history
- Different ethnicity

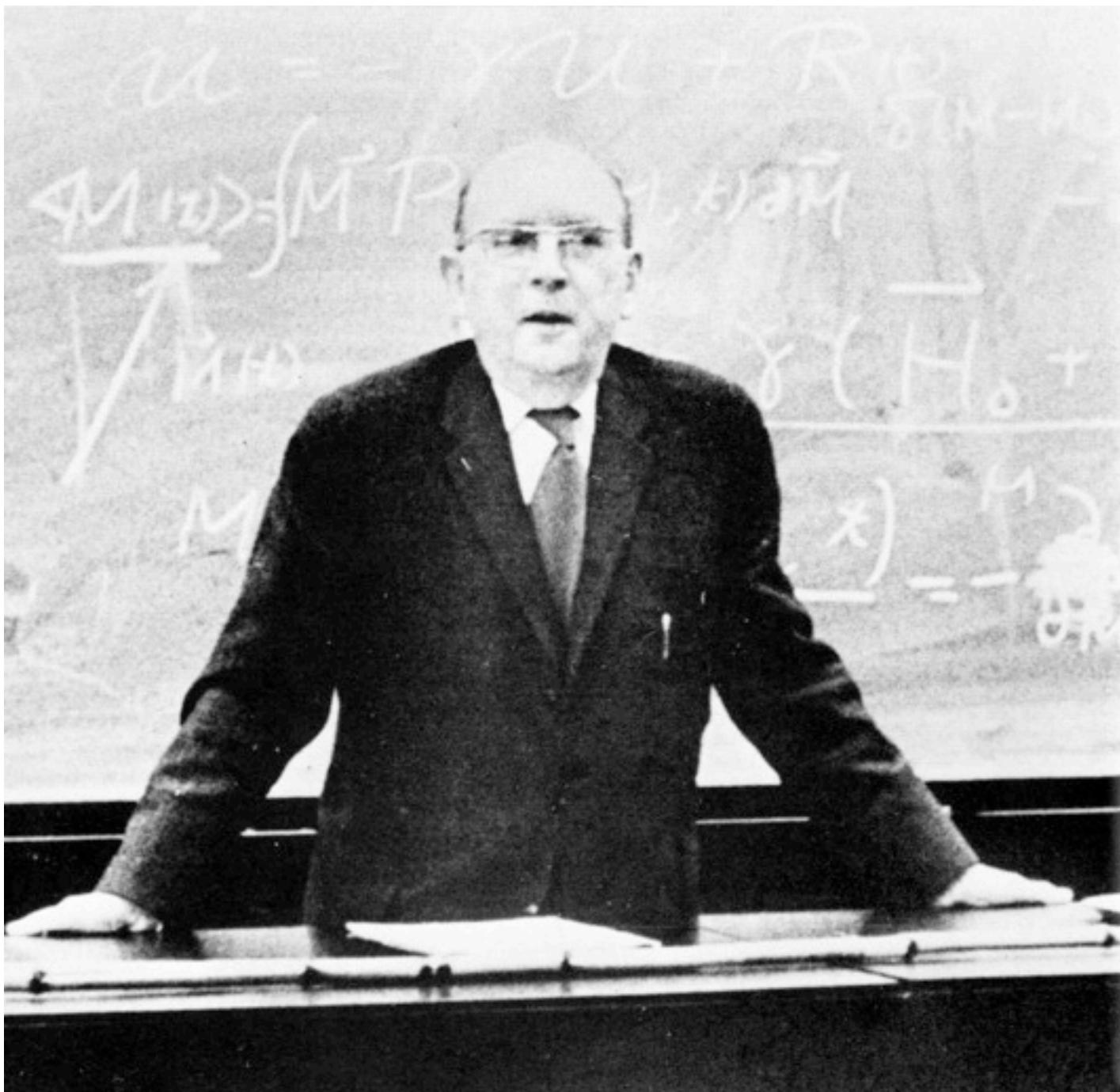
After World War II

- Political desire for a common Nordic project
- Physicists had good working relationships
- Contacts between Niels Bohr, Torsten Gustafson (Lund) and Tage Erlander (Swedish prime minister)
- Led to foundation of Nordita (1957)
- Successor to the CERN Theoretical Study Group
- Moved into Blegdamsvej 15 when mathematicians moved out





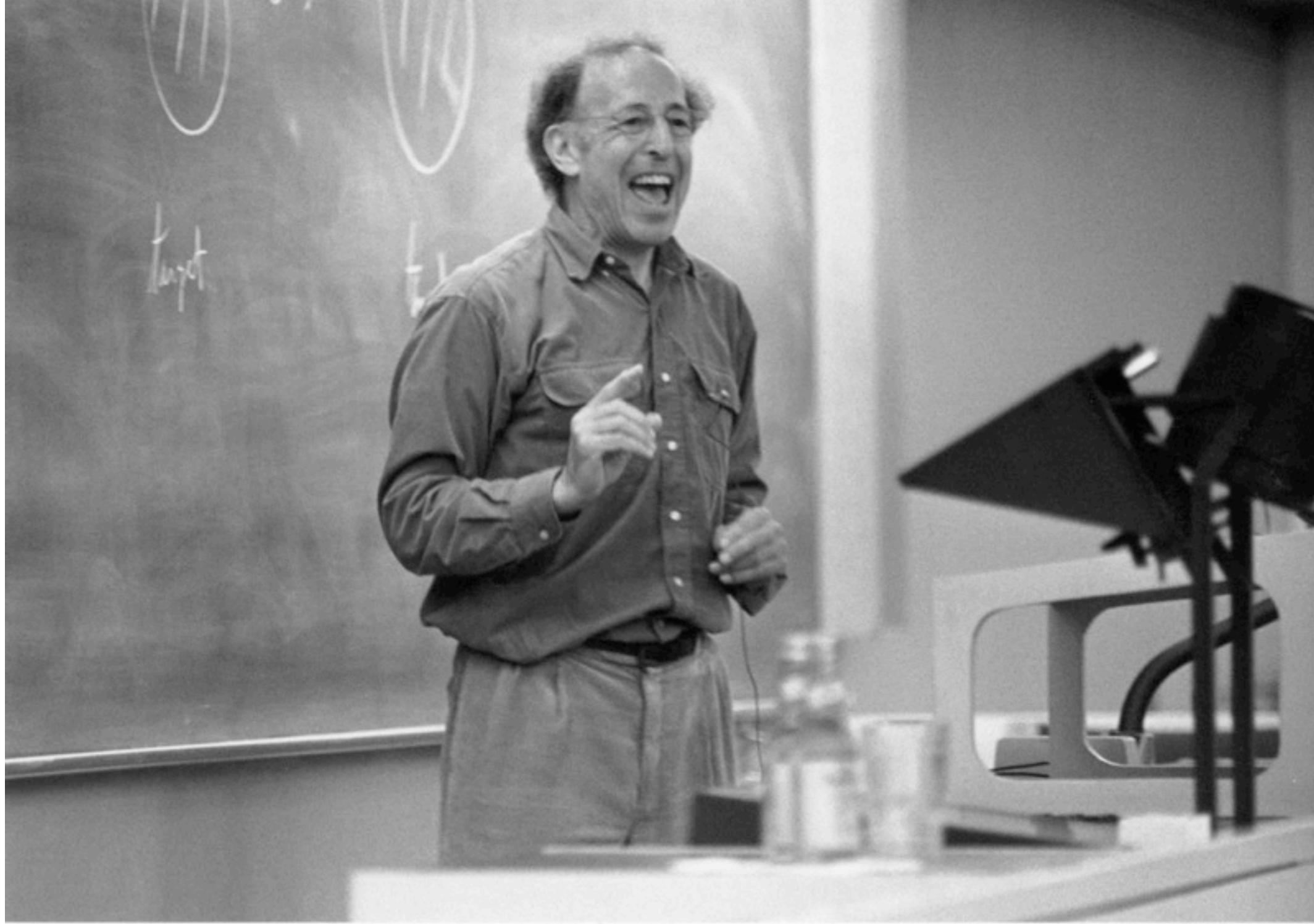
Christian Møller



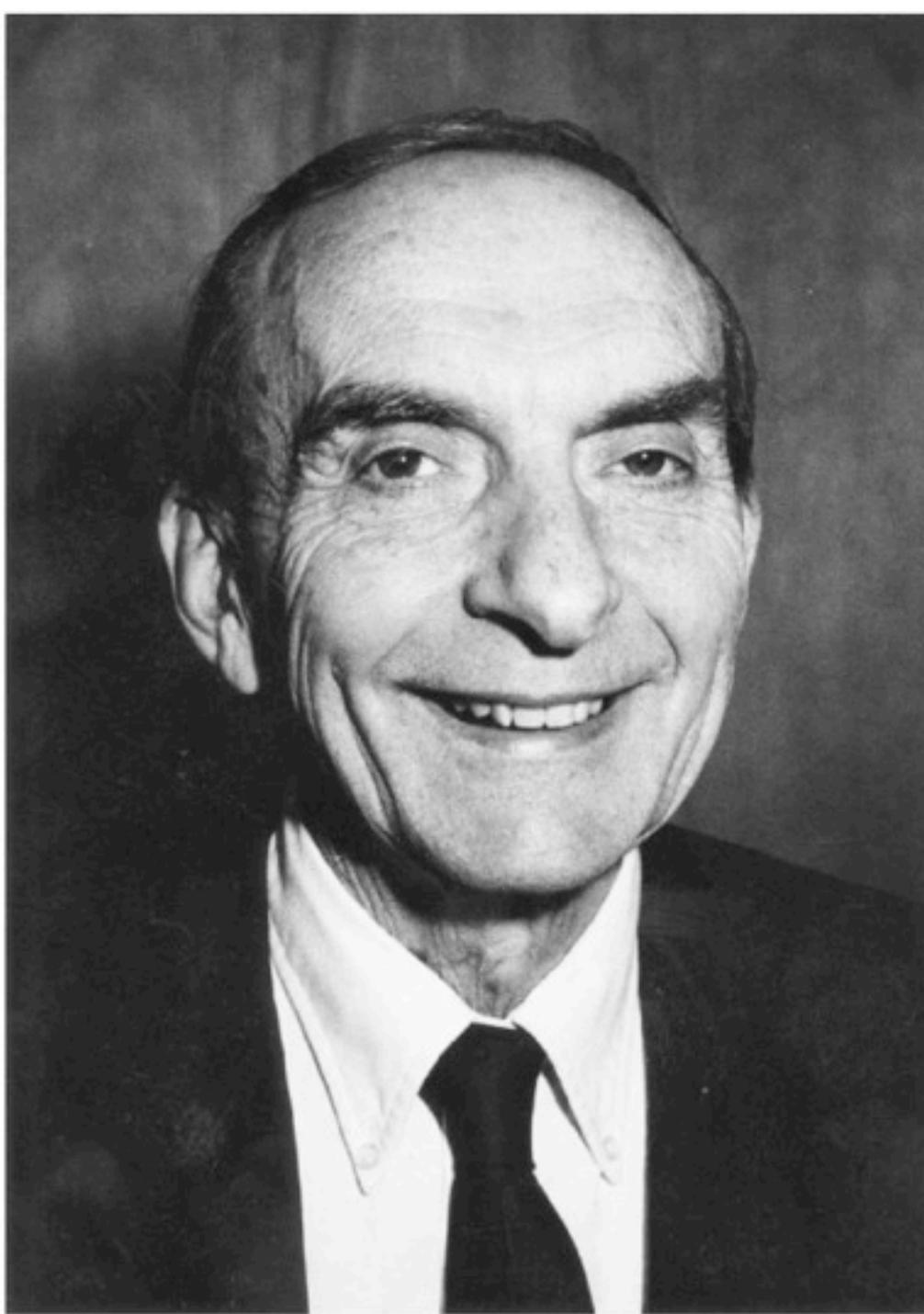
Léon Rosenfeld



Gunnar Källén



Ben Mottelson



Gerald E. Brown

Research areas

- Nuclear physics
- Particle physics. From early 1960s.
- Condensed matter physics
(Sweden and Finland) 1970s
- Astrophysics. 1970s -
- Complex systems 1980s -
- Biological physics 1990s -
- ...





ARKive



Administrative flexibility

- Institute in Copenhagen
 - Rapid response
 - Variety of positions
- Activities in Nordic countries
 - Visiting scientists (also at Nordic centres)
 - Summer schools and Master Class

- Nordita enjoyed stable support for many years



- Nordisk Råd and Nordisk Ministerråd are to be congratulated on the far-sighted approach adopted
- Beginning in 2003, Nordisk Ministerråd carried out a “nationalization” of its research interests.
Budget reduced to 50%
- Sweden made an attractive offer and Nordita moved to Stockholm on 1 January 2007