

Department of Physics, Stanford University presents  
**The Robert Hofstadter Memorial Lecture**

*Free Public lecture - no charge to attend!*

**Monday evening, May 23, 2005**

**8:00 PM**

**in Hewlett (TCSEQ) Room 200**

**Invited Speaker: Professor Peter Galison**  
**Prof. of the History of Science and**  
**Physics, Harvard University**

**"THE ASSASSIN OF RELATIVITY"**

In his younger years--from the time they were students together at the Zurich Polytechnic--Albert Einstein was good friends with Friedrich Adler. Adler, son of the cultured leader of the Socialist Party in Vienna, was, like Einstein, a physicist very much engaged with both epistemology and politics. They shared a fascination for Ernst Mach--they even lived in the same building where their young children played together. Adler wrote his father that he and Einstein had "parallel lives." Then, in the midst of World War I, on 21 October 1916, Adler assassinated the Prime Minister of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Einstein rallied to his defense and between death row and Berlin Adler and Einstein began an extraordinary correspondence about the meaning and validity of relativity. This talk is an exploration of the heady mix of psychoanalysis, politics, physics and philosophy that followed--as the world stumbled ever deeper into war.

Refreshments will be served in the lobby of TSCEQ between 7:30-8:00 PM