

Chemistry and Chemical Biology Oral History Project

A Conversation with Roald Hoffmann

Video Total Run Time: [85 min]

Interviewed by Ben Widom

The Internet-First University Press

A Conversation with Roald Hoffmann

The Oral History Project
Department of Chemistry
and Chemical Biology
Cornell University

Interviewed
by Ben Widom

June 2006

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Chapters
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Credits

Chapters [m:s]

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Roald Hoffmann

“Roald Hoffmann was born in 1937 in Zloczow, Poland. Having survived the war, he came to the U. S. in 1949, and studied chemistry at Columbia University and Harvard University (Ph.D. 1962). Since 1965 he is at Cornell University, now as the Frank H. T. Rhodes Professor of Humane Letters. He has received many of the honors of his profession, including the 1981 Nobel Prize in Chemistry (shared with Kenichi Fukui).

"Applied theoretical chemistry" is the way Roald Hoffmann likes to characterize the particular blend of computations stimulated by experiment and the construction of generalized models, of frameworks for understanding, that is his contribution to chemistry.

“Dr. Hoffmann also writes essays and poems. Two of his poetry collections, "The Metamict State" (1987) and "Gaps and Verges" (1990), have been published by the University Presses of Florida.”

This DVD

The Oral History Project of the Department of Chemistry and Chemical Biology at Cornell University, led by Charles Wilcox and Kelly Strickland, presents this DVD of an extended interview with a senior member of the faculty in which they share their life's journey, their professional interests and their reflections about the distinctive character of their department and its nurturing environment. Their comments reveal some of the aspects that make this an exemplary academic unit. Short biographies of interviewee and interviewer are included, in addition to a photo gallery and list of publications of the interviewee.

J. Robert Cooke produced the DVD for The Internet-First University Press, an outgrowth of the Open Access Publishing Project led by Cooke and Kenneth M. King. A streaming video of this interview is available online, without access fee, at <http://dspace.library.cornell.edu/handle/1813/62> and at <http://ifup.cit.cornell.edu>.
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