

UC Riverside Retirees' and Emeriti Associations
with additional sponsorship by UCR Osher and UCR's Office of Gift Planning
Present

The Edward A. Dickson Emeritus/a Professorship Lecture Series

DISCOVERY OF SUPERCONDUCTIVITY - HISTORICAL AND PHYSICAL PERSPECTIVE

Tuesday, April 21, 2026
3:00 - 4:30 p.m. with Reception to follow
In-person at University Extension Building 1101 in the
University Village
Livestreamed via Zoom

Featuring

Chandra Varma
UCR Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Physics and Astronomy



Description

I will set the scene for the surprising discovery of Superconductivity in 1911, and the simultaneous (but not realized) phenomena of Superfluidity, by relating what was known and considered important to discover, and what was unknown in the bubbling but un-fermented prior decade. I will talk about the confusion of great minds when the essential physics, without which these phenomena could not be understood, was yet to be discovered. Yet with the right attitude and great leaps of imagination, some of them made remarkable and enduring contributions, which survive the full understanding which arrived only in the 1950s and 1960s. Such an understanding has affected everything subsequent in physics from nuclear physics to particle physics to cosmology.

Register

Priority seating is given to members of the UCR Emeriti and Retirees' Associations who must register by April 3, 2026 on the Retirement Center webpage at:
https://ucriverside.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_aaacFzhTfJR9mrc.

Registration will open to UCR and the public on April 4, 2026.