

The Mysterious Death of the SSC: They All Did It

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The Superconducting Super Collider (SSC) was planned to be an energy-frontier accelerator that would keep the US at the forefront of high-energy physics. Originally imagined as an international “accelerator for world peace” in the 1960s, it was finally born as a US project in 1983. It went from concept through design and development, only to suffer a premature death in 1993, before becoming the particle collider it might have been. Why did this happen? Who did it? The plot was thick with good guys and bad guys, intrigue, and backroom deals. In the end, the promise of discovery was buried in a hole in Texas.

Based on thirty years of research in the Fermilab History & Archives Project, this talk introduces *Tunnel Visions, The Rise and Fall of the Superconducting Super Collider*, written by Michael Riordan, Lillian Hoddeson and Adrienne W. Kolb, and published by the University of Chicago Press.