

People: Erwin Schrödinger

Erwin Schrödinger was born in Vienna in 1887, and made pioneering contributions to quantum mechanics. In particular, his postulation of the Schrödinger Equation to explain the wave-nature of matter established the bedrock on which all of modern chemistry is built.



All undergraduate chemists learn about the Schrödinger Equation. Yet, posthumous revelations of sexual misconduct have meant that in recent years his legacy has been in question.

Does his misbehaviour tarnish his reputation, or is his personal life irrelevant to his scientific brilliance? How should we view people who are brilliant in one facet, but flawed in another?

