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After World War II, particle physics became a dominant research discipline in American academia. At many universities, alumni of the Manhattan Project and of Los Alamos were granted resources to start (or strengthen) programs of high-energy physics built around the promise of a new and more powerful particle accelerator, the synchrotron. The synchrotron was also a source of very intense x-rays, useful for research in solid-state physics and in biology. As synchrotron x-ray science grew, the experimental practice of protein crystallography (used to determine the atomic structures of proteins and viruses), garnered funding, prestige, and acclaim. In *Velvet Revolution at the Synchrotron*, Park Doing examines the change in scientific practice at a synchrotron laboratory as biology rose to dominance over physics. Drawing on his own observations and experiences at the Cornell University synchrotron, he considers the implications of that change for the status of scientific claims.

The author uses specific scientific and technical claims through participant observation_recorded evocatively and engagingly_to address issues in the philosophy of science. He argues that bureaucratic change in science is neither "top-down" nor "bottom-up" but rather performed in and realized through recursively related forums of technical assertion and resistance. He considers the relationship of this change to the content of science, and the implications of this relationship for the project of laboratory studies.