From ferromagnetism to spintronics: attempt at a synthesis

Ferromagnetism is as old as the civilization, but it took the merging of Einstein theory of relativity and Quantum mechanics to provide its explanation. Exactly at a time where ferromagnetism and the spin of the electron were slowly but surely acquiring a smell of antiquity, spintronics was discovered and flourished - and still does - as one of the most innovative and useful modern sciences. In this talk, I will give a personal (tutorial) view of the most important steps that led from ferromagnetism to spintronics.