

Rowan T. Deam Biography

September 14, 2022. Patrick Charbonneau

Rowan Thomas Deam (June 12, 1949-) was born in Melbourne, Australia, son of Robert Joseph Deam, research chemist at British Petroleum, and Dorothy Nichols, housewife. during Deam's youth, the family moved to Sutton, Surrey (a suburb of London), United Kingdom, where he did most of his schooling.

Deam attended Southampton University, where he obtained a BSc in physics (1968-1971), before pursuing graduate studies at Manchester with Sam F. Edwards. In his second year, Deam—following Edwards—moved to the Theory of Condensed Matter Group at the University of Cambridge, where he obtained a PhD (1975) for a thesis entitled “Entanglements and excluded volume in rubber”. He then joined the research group at the Marchwood Engineering Laboratories of the Central Electricity Generating Board, in Southampton, UK (1974-1990). Upon the closing of the laboratory, he moved to the surroundings of Melbourne, Australia, where he joined the Division of Manufacturing Technology (1990-2000) of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO). From 2001 until his retirement in 2009, he worked as a researcher at the Industrial Research Institute Swinburne (IRIS) of Swinburne University, in Melbourne.

Deam's thesis developed Edwards' formulation of the replica trick to study the elasticity of rubber. Upon graduating, he chose to work in industrial research settings for most of the rest of his career and had essentially no engagement with the physics of disordered systems that built on his graduate work.