

Imre Kondor Biography

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Imre Kondor (May 21 1943-) was born in Debrecen, Hungary, the son of Imre Kondor, philosopher, librarian and politician, and of Erzsébet Koréh. In the late '40s, his family moved to Budapest, where he attended public schools.

Kondor pursued a diploma in theoretical physics at the Eötvös Loránd University of Budapest (1961-1966), writing a thesis entitled "On the Elementary Excitation Spectra of a Bose System at Zero Temperature" under the supervision of Peter Szépfalusy. He then joined the Department for Atomic Physics at that same university as an assistant professor (1966-1969), and later the Research Group for Theoretical Physics at the Hungarian Academy of Science (1969-1989), where he climbed through the ranks as assistant research fellow, research fellow, and senior research fellow. The Hungarian Academy of Science named him Candidate of Physical Sciences in 1984, and Doctor of Physical Sciences in 1988. He then took up a professorship at the Institute for Theoretical Physics of Eötvös Loránd University (1989-1998), and later in its Department of the Physics of Complex Systems (1998-2011). Since 2004 he is an honorary professor at the Institute of Finance of Corvinus University, Budapest, and since 2010 he is faculty member of the Parmenides Foundation, Munich. He is also currently an affiliate of the London Mathematical Laboratory and of the Complexity Science Hub, Vienna. Over the years, Kondor has also held a number of visiting positions, notably at the International Centre for Theoretical Physics, Trieste, Italy (1972-1973), the Institut für Theoretische Physik, Goethe Universität, Frankfurt-am-Main, Germany (1981), the Service de Physique Théorique, Centre d'Études Nucleaires, Saclay, France (1982), and the Department of Theoretical Physics, Victoria University, Manchester, United Kingdom (1984-1986). From 1992-1998, he was also the founding director of ELTE Bolyai Kollégium, an elite scientific college of Eötvös Loránd University.

Kondor initially pursued systematic loop expansions in $1/n$ of field theoretical description, which led him to interact with various Western European scientists, including Giorgio Parisi and Cirano De Dominicis during the late '70s. With de Dominicis, he later established a field-theoretical program for the spin glass transition, which they pursued together for nearly two decades, notably demonstrating the stability of the Parisi solution and obtaining its propagators. Since the late '90s, Kondor has pursued various questions in finance, using various tools adapted from the study of spin glasses, as part of the burgeoning field of econophysics.

Kondor has received a number of distinctions for his work, including the Imre Bródy Prize of the Eötvös Loránd Fizikai Társulat [Eötvös Physics Society] (1973), the Physics Prize (1989) and the Academic Prize (1992) of the Magyar Tudományos Akadémia [Hungarian Academy of Sciences], the Apáczai Csere János Prize from the Hungarian Ministry of

Education (1999), and the Bronze Cross of Order of Merit of the Hungarian Republic (2003).