

Raymund C. Jones Biography

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Raymund C. Jones (2 April 1946-) from Deganwy (Wales, UK), the son of David Iorwerth Jones, a teacher, and Marie Dorothea Jones (née Nain), secretary and housewife. He spent his youth in the area around the North Wales coast, notably attending the John Bright Grammar School (1957-1964) in nearby Llandudno.

Jones attended the University of Manchester, where he obtained a BSc in Physics (1967), and Diploma of Advanced Studies (1968), and a PhD in Theoretical Physics for a thesis entitled “Spin Waves in Disordered Magnetic Systems”, under the supervision of Sam F. Edwards. He was then an ICI postdoctoral research fellow with David Sherrington in the Condensed Matter Theory Group of the Physics Department at Imperial College, London. He joined the Mathematical Physics department at the University of Birmingham as a Lecturer in 1971, moving to the Theoretical Physics Group of the School of Physics and Astronomy in 1991, and turning emeritus in 2015. From 1997 to 2015, he also served as Senior Tutor (director of undergraduate welfare) in the School of Physics and Astronomy.

Jones was trained as a theoretical condensed matter physicist, studying the role of randomly positioned impurities in magnetic systems, and was exposed to the ideas of spin glasses while at Imperial College through the influence of Bryan Coles and his collaborators. Whilst at Birmingham, he learned about the replica trick through a chance conference meeting and then collaboration with Sam Edwards on random matrices (and their use in describing the statistical mechanics of polymers), and then collaborated on understanding the physical capabilities of using such an approach to describe the properties of disordered magnetic systems through collaborations with David Thouless, Mike Kosterlitz, and Jairo de Almeida.

Jones is a fellow of the Higher Education Academy (2007).