

A. Peter Young Biography

March 22, 2021. Patrick Charbonneau

Allan Peter Young (June 18, 1948-) was born in Lancaster, England, UK, the son of John Young and Eleanor Heap.

Young did his undergraduate studies at Oxford University (1967-1970), graduating First Class honors in Physics, before pursuing graduate studies in the Theoretical Physics Department, also at Oxford University, receiving a D. Phil. (1973) for a thesis entitled *Phase Transitions in Spin-phonon Systems*, under the supervision of Roger James Elliott. He remained a postdoc at Oxford with Elliott and John Paul Jakubovics another couple of years (1973-1975), before moving to a research scientist position at Institut Laue-Langevin, in Grenoble (1975-1977), and then to a postdoc position at Cornell University (1977-1978). He was appointed Lecturer (1978-1984) and Reader (1984-1985) in Mathematics at Imperial College, before taking a professorship at the University of California in Santa Cruz (1985-2014), where he is now Research Professor.

Young first tackled the finite-dimensional spin glass problem using real-space renormalization techniques, before turning to computational approaches in the early 1980s. He subsequently kept up an innovative and influential computational program in field of spin glasses for nearly three decades, in parallel to his study of various quantum disordered systems. He authored influential reviews and books, notably a Reviews of Modern Physics piece with Kurt Binder in 1986.

Young received the 1985 Maxwell Medal and Prize jointly with Alan J. Bray. The American Physics Society made him fellow (1989) “for contributions to numerical simulations of random magnetic and quantum spin systems and to the theory of two-dimensional melting,” and awarded him the Aneesur Rahman Prize for Computational Physics (2009) “for his innovative and definitive numerical studies of spin glasses and the vortex glass state of high-temperature superconductors.” He received the 2004 Excellence in Teaching Award at the University of California Santa Cruz, was elected member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2012, and received a Martin Gutzwiller Fellowship from the Max Planck Institute for the Physics of Complex Systems in 2014.