Tom C. Lubensky Biography

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Tom Carl Lubensky (May 7 1943-) was born in Kansas City, Missouri, USA, the son of Earl Henry Lubensky, a WWII soldier who later became US diplomat and amateur archaeologist, and Anita Ruth Price.

Lubensky obtained a BS in Physics from the California Institute of Technology (1961-1964), before pursuing graduate studies at Harvard, where he obtained a PhD in physics for a thesis entitled "Some aspects of magnetic correlations and line-widths," under the supervision of Paul C. Martin. He was then a NSF postdoctoral fellow in Paris, working in de Gennes' group at Orsay (1969-1970), and a postdoctoral research associate in Leo Kadanoff's group at Brown (1970-1971), before joining the University of Pennsylvania faculty as assistant professor in 1971. There, he climbed through the ranks, becoming associate professor (1975), professor (1980), Mary Amanda Wood Chair professor (1999), and Christopher H. Browne Distinguished Professor of Physics (2009), a title he holds as emeritus since 2017.

Lubensky got introduced to liquid crystals and to the renormalization group during his two postdoctoral experiences, and then to disordered systems from his colleague, A. Brooks Harris. Through their decades-long collaboration, Harris and Lubensky notably used field-theoretical tools to explore various aspects of percolation, as well as spin glasses, Anderson localization, and liquid crystals. Lubensky's vast expertise with condensed and soft matter physics led him to co-author, with Paul Chaikin, *Principles of Condensed Matter Physics.* Since its first publication in the mid-1990s, this book has been broadly used in graduate physics programs in the United States and beyond.

Lubensky was an Alfred P. Sloan Fellow (1975-1977) and Guggenheim fellow at École normale supérieure in Paris (1981-1982). He was made fellow of the American Physical Society (1985), the American Association for the Advancement of Science (2000), the National Academy of Sciences (2002), and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (2007). He is also the recipient of the 2004 Oliver E. Buckley Condensed Matter Physics Prize for his "seminal contributions to the theory of condensed matter systems including the prediction and elucidation of the properties of new, partially ordered phases of complex materials."