Éric Vincent Biography

March 27, 2023. Patrick Charbonneau

Éric Vincent (1953-) was born in Reims, France.

Vincent was a student at École Centrale (1972-1975), obtaining a diplôme d'ingénieur from the selective *grande école* along with a diplôme d'études approfondies in physics. He then pursued graduate studies at the Commissariat à l'énergie atomique (CEA) in Saclay, completing a *thèse de 3^{e} cycle* (1977) entitled "Préliminaire à l'étude expérimentale de la photoproduction de mésons pi-zéro sur les noyaux légers au voisinage du seuil," and a *thèse d'état* (1980) entitled "Mesure de la photoproduction de pi-zéro sur les noyaux légers au voisinage du seuil," from Université Paris XI, both under the supervision of Christophe Tzara. He was tenured at CEA in 1979, in the Service de Physique des Hautes Energies, and transferred to Jacques Michel Hammann's group in the Service de Physique de l'Etat Condensé in 1985, where he stayed until his retirement in 2015, and still has a position as Emeritus research director. He became group leader in 1994, and from 2003-2012 served as Chef du Service de Physique de l'Etat Condensé. He then served as director of the Réseau thématique de recherche avancée du Triangle de la physique (2012-2016), and prepared the project of a Department of Waves and Matter in the emerging Université Paris-Saclay. In parallel, he occasionally taught at Paris VI university and at École Centrale (1999-2019).

Vincent was trained as an experimental nuclear physicist but moved to the study of spin glasses a few years after his tenure at CEA. He was involved in various experimental studies of these systems in the ensuing decades, collaborating closely with theorists, notably Jean-Philippe Bouchaud, Leticia Cugliandolo, Seiji Miyashita.

In 2008, Vincent received the Prix Aniuta Winter-Klein de l'Académie des Sciences for his experimental work on spin glasses. The citation mentions that: "Éric Vincent est mondialement connu pour ses expériences sur les verres de spins. Ces travaux, développés en pleine connaissance des progrès théoriques faits parallèlement, ont permis de tester l'image d'une structure hiérarchique des états métastables et de comprendre les effets de mémoire comme les phénomènes de vieillissement ou de rajeunissement selon le protocole de refroidissement suivi dans les expériences."