

Michael A. Moore Biography

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Michael Arthur Moore (October 8, 1943-) was born in the UK, the son of John Moore, a laboratory assistant in the dyestuff industry, and Barbara Atkinson, a hairdresser. He spent his childhood in Huddersfield, in the North of England, where he attended Huddersfield New College.

Moore studied physics at Oriel College, Oxford, obtaining a BA in 1964, and then a DPhil from Oxford as well in 1967, with a thesis entitled "Some problems in the theory of many-body systems", under the supervision of William Edward Parry. Moore was then a postdoc at the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign, in the group of John Bardeen (1967-1969), before returning to Oxford as a Fellow-by-Examination of Magdalen College for the years 1969-1971. He took up a lectureship at the University of Sussex (1971-1976), and in 1976, became Professor at the University of Manchester, where he became emeritus in 2010. He served twice as Head of Department.

Moore's early research was on the theory of magnetic spin systems and superfluidity, and then he applied renormalization group ideas to polymer physics. He joined the study of spin glasses around 1977, in close collaboration with his Manchester colleague, Alan Bray. The two wrote a series of important papers on spin glasses, using both replica symmetry breaking ideas and computer simulations. Their contribution is particularly associated with the droplet scaling theory of the spin glass state, which has long served as a counterweight to the mean-field description of these models. Moore has kept working on spin glasses and glasses in retirement.

He married Susan Moore, a nurse, in 1966. They have three sons and one daughter, and nine grandchildren.

Moore was elected Fellow of The Royal Society in 1989.