

Chandan Dasgupta Biography

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Chandan Dasgupta (December 17, 1951–) was born in Kolkata, India, son of Satyendranath Dasgupta, a professor at the University of Calcutta, and Shova Dasgupta, a homemaker.

Dasgupta attended Presidency College of the University of Calcutta, (1967-1971), where he updated a BSc in Physics, and then obtained a MSc in Physics at Delhi University (1971-1973) for a thesis entitled “Chew-Low theory for meson-nucleon scattering” under the supervision of Natarajan Panchapakesan, and a PhD in Theoretical Physics at the University of Pennsylvania (1973-1978) for a thesis entitled “Renormalization-group study of the Potts model with applications to random networks” under the supervision of A. Brooks Harris. He subsequently worked as a postdoc with Shang-keng Ma (1978-1980) at the University of California San Diego (UCSD) and with Bertrand Halperin at Harvard University (1980-1981), before joining the physics faculty at the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis as assistant professor (1981-83 and 1984-86). He also joined the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) in Bangalore, India, first as visiting assistant professor (1983-1984), and then as Indian National Science Academy research fellow (1986-1987) and faculty (assistant professor, 1987-1989; associate professor, 1989-1995; professor (1995-2017), where he retired in 2017. He also held visiting Professorships at the University of Minnesota (1994-1995) and the University of Maryland (2002-2003), was Honorary faculty at the Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (senior fellow, 1990-1998; professor, 1998-2015), and was adjunct faculty of the International Centre for Theoretical Sciences, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (2009-2012). At IISc, Dasgupta also played major role in the establishment of the Centre for Condensed Matter Theory (CCMT) and served at its first Convenor (1998-2005). He also served as Dean of the Undergraduate Programme of IISc (2010-2014). At present, he holds the SERB Distinguished Fellowship at IISc and is a Simons Visiting Professor at the International Centre for Theoretical Sciences

Dasgupta started his training as nuclear/particle physicist and turned toward condensed matter theorist for his PhD. He first heard of spin glasses through interactions in Tom Lubensky and Brooks Harris’ group at U Penn, and later worked on the topic as a postdoc at UCSD and then with Haim Sompolsky at Harvard. He kept an interest in the topic as a junior faculty at Minnesota and later worked on a variety of other disordered systems, including structural glasses.

Dasgupta received the Warner Teutsch Memorial Prize (1974) and was an Alfred P. Sloan fellow (1984-1987). He has been elected fellow of the Indian Academy of Sciences, (1992), the Indian National Science Academy (1999), the National Academy of Sciences, India (2000), and the World Academy of Sciences (2007). He was a recipient of the J. C. Bose National Fellowship of the Department of Science and Technology, India during 2006 –

2019. He has further been awarded the Raja Ramanna prize of the Department of Atomic Energy, India (1999), the Sir C.V. Raman Award for Research in Physical Sciences by the University Grants Commission, India (2006), and the Satyendranath Bose Medal by the Indian National Science Academy (2018). He was selected as “Outstanding Referee” for Physical Review journals in 2008, and as “Distinguished Referee” of the European Physical Journal in 2016.