

Mathematics People

Sznitman, Scott Awarded Blaise Pascal Medals

The European Academy of Science awarded 2022 Blaise Pascal Medals to Alain-Sol Sznitman, professor of mathematics at ETH Zurich, and to Susan Scott, professor of theoretical physics in the Centre for Gravitational Astrophysics at Australian National University. Scott is the first Australian to receive the Blaise Pascal medal.

Sznitman received the Mathematics medal in recognition of his contributions to probability theory. The Academy wrote of Sznitman, “He is one of the main players who have transformed probability theory into one of the most active and important branches of mainstream mathematics—both directly via their own work, but also by creating a sense of community.

“In this last decade, Sznitman has again crafted a deep subject. With the ‘interlacement’ questions, one looks at questions of the connectivity properties of ‘the complement of a random structure’ rather than of the random structure itself.

“This turned out to be a deep topic, with relations to many other currently active areas of probability theory (maxima of random fields), where again, the ideas that he developed turn out to be central,” according to the Academy.

Sznitman has been a professor of mathematics at ETH Zurich since 1991; he became emeritus in 2021. He received his PhD in 1983 from the Université Pierre-et-Marie-Curie—Paris VI under the supervision of Jacques Neveu.

Scott received the Physics medal in recognition of her contributions to the advances of physics. “Distinguished Professor Susan Scott is an internationally recognized mathematical physicist who has made groundbreaking discoveries in general relativity, cosmology, and gravitational wave science spanning more than three decades,” according to the Academy.

“She played a leading role in Australia’s participation in the first detection of gravitational waves in 2015, and the

development of the field of gravitational wave science in Australia following on from that discovery.”

Scott received her PhD in 1991 from the University of Adelaide [Australia] under the supervision of Peter Szekeres. In 2022, she became the first Australian to be elected Fellow of the International Society on General Relativity and Gravitation (ISGRG), joining such scientists as Stephen Hawking and Nobel Laureates Roger Penrose and Kip Thorne.

—AMS Communications

Nicole Joseph Receives 2023 Louise Hay Award

The Association for Women in Mathematics is pleased to announce the 2023 Louise Hay Award to Nicole Joseph, associate professor of mathematics education at Vanderbilt University. Joseph is honored for contributions to mathematics education that reflect the values of taking risks and nurturing students’ academic talent that are central to Louise Hay’s legacy.

“Professor Nicole Joseph’s research is centered on the experiences and narratives of Black girls and women in STEM,” the citation reads. “... As one of her recommenders stated, Joseph’s research exhibits ‘scholarship in action.’ In other words, Joseph both investigates hard and retracted questions while doing the work necessary to undo these patterns.”

Joseph responds, “I am deeply honored to join the list of distinguished awardees, including Dr. Virginia Warfield from the University of Washington, who was on my dissertation committee. Throughout my career I have aimed to carry out similar commitments as Louise Hay, specifically related to mentorship, advocacy, and leadership.

“I started this journey as a young Black girl who found herself in advanced mathematics courses in middle and high school alone. No one else looked like me, and that was a problem. I was young and did not have the words, but I knew as a young person that it was not right to not have other students in mathematics that looked like me.”

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1090/noti2632>

Established in 1991, the Hay Award recognizes outstanding achievements in any area of mathematics education. Louise Hay was recognized widely for her contributions to mathematical logic; for her strong leadership as head of the Department of Mathematics, Statistics, and Computer Science at the University of Illinois at Chicago; for her devotion to students; and for her lifelong commitment to nurturing the talent of young women and men.

The annual presentation of this award is intended to highlight the importance of mathematics education and to evoke the memory of all that Hay exemplified as a teacher, scholar, administrator, and human being. The award will be presented at the Joint Mathematics Meetings, January 4–7, 2023 in Boston, MA.

—Association for Women in Mathematics

Your member benefits do not have to be out of reach.

\$0 | **\$20[†]** | **\$54[†]**

*[†]Apply up to 20 AMS points to these rates.
One point = \$1 discount.*

If you are searching for a job but are not yet employed,* you can still be an AMS member. Choose the rate option that is comfortable for your budget. Then use your benefits to assist your search.

New to the AMS:
www.ams.org/join

Current eligible members who have not yet paid 2023 dues:
www.ams.org/account



**Annual statement of unemployed status is required.*