

Academician Of The Russian Academy Of Sciences Rashid Sunyaev Elected Professor At Institute For Advanced Study, Princeton

The Institute for Advanced Study (IAS) founded in 1930 is widely regarded as one of the world's most prestigious academician institutions. The distinguished physicists and mathematicians of the XX century worked here such as Albert Einstein, Kurt Gödel, John von Neumann, Robert Oppenheimer, Eugene Wigner. At present, 28 professors work at the Institute who are known for the results they had achieved in different fields of science from mathematics to molecular biology, and from history to economics.

The peculiarity of the Institute is that the research workers are absolutely free to choose their research issues, and are not confined to get the specified result which is considered a special honor in the scientific world.

A new position of Visiting Professor was set up by the Institute for Advanced Study specially for R.A. Sunyaev out of the funds of the John and Maureen Hendricks Charitable Foundation. John Hendricks is a Founder and Chairman of Discovery Communications, and a Trustee of the Institute.

According to the IAS press-release, Sunyaev is “one of the world's most distinguished astrophysicists”, “a leading theoretician who developed the standard model of how black holes devour matter and who has made fundamental contributions to our understanding of the structure of the cosmological background radiation”.

Scott Tremaine, Richard Black Professor in the School of Natural Sciences, stated, “One of the primary goals of the Institute's programs in astrophysics is to broaden and develop the research skills of the most promising young astrophysicists, and Rashid is uniquely qualified to do this: he is interested in and knowledgeable about almost every aspect of theoretical astrophysics, he is extraordinarily energetic and interactive, and he loves to talk about science with young people.”

On his appointment, Sunyaev noted, “It is a great honor to be associated with IAS, and I am pleased to serve as the first Maureen and John Hendricks Visiting Professor to pursue my scientific interests alongside the Institute's Faculty and Members. Of course, we should see things in a realistic light: due to dividing my time between Space Research Institute of The Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow, and the position as the director at the Max Planck Institute for Astrophysics, Munich, I won't be able to give more than two months in a year to the IAS. However, twice a year – having no administrative duties, panels or lectures, just working at the matter of interest – is a great deal. In IAS, I hope to meet every day at tea or dinner or at seminars scores of young and active theoretical astrophysicists undergoing a study course in IAS for 3 – 5 years who were selected from among other candidates, as well as the authors of the most interesting articles coming from all the countries of the world to tell about their achievements.”

Currently, Rashid A. Sunyaev is Chief Scientist of the Russian Academy of Sciences' Space Research Institute, Russia, Director of the Max Planck Institute for Astrophysics, Germany. He is widely known for the decisive contributions to high-energy astrophysics and cosmology. R.

Sunyaev and N.Shakura developed a model of accretion discs describing the process of matter accretion on compact objects such as black holes, and neutron stars. The scientific works of Sunyaev and Zel'dovich dedicated to relict radiation study became the keystone of our understanding of the evolution and structure of the Universe.

Additional Information:

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Website of the Institute for Advanced Study
<http://www.ias.edu/>

Press-release of the Institute for Advanced Study
<http://www.ias.edu/news/press-releases/2010/08/13/sunyaev>

Website of High Energy Astrophysics Department of Space Research Institute
<http://hea.iki.rssi.ru/ru/index.php>



Rashid Alievich Sunyaev, academician of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Chief Scientist at Space Research Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Director of the Max Planck Institute for Astrophysics, Germany.