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Post-school Education

- Peterhouse, Cambridge (1981-84)
Natural Sciences Tripos. Physics & Theoretical Physics, 1st Class
- St John's College & Cavendish Laboratory, Cambridge (1984-88)
PhD: Raman and birefringence studies of phase transitions; supervisor: Dr W Y Liang

Career

- Research Fellow, St Edmund's College, Cambridge (Sept 87 - Dec 88)
- Croucher Foundation Research Fellow, Cavendish Laboratory (Aug-Dec 88)
- Lecturer, Department of Applied Physics & Physical Electronics, Portsmouth Polytechnic (1989)
- Department of Physics and Astronomy, The University of Edinburgh: Lecturer (1990 - 1997), Senior Lecturer (1997-1999), Professor (1999 - present)

Awards

- Entrance Scholar (1981) and Senior Scholar (1983), Peterhouse, Cambridge
- Benefactor' Research Studentship (1984) and Scholar (1986), St John's College, Cambridge
- Croucher Foundation PhD Studentship (1984) and Postdoctoral Fellowship (1988)
- Nuffield Foundation Science Research Fellowship (1996)
- Personal chair in Condensed Matter Physics, The University of Edinburgh (1999)
- Fellow of the Institute of Physics (1999)
- Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh (2004)
- Joop Los Fellow, Institute of Atomic and Molecular Physics, Amsterdam (2004)
- EPSRC Senior Research Fellowship 2007-2012
- Royal Society Wolfson Merit Award 2013-2018

Invited Research Visits

- École Supérieure de Physique et de Chimie Industrielles (ESPCI), Paris, April-May 2001
- Institute of Atomic & Molecular Physics (AMOLF), Amsterdam, May 2002
- Isaac Newton Institute, Jan-July 2004, Statistical Mechanics of Biological Systems, January-June 2004
- Visiting Fellow, St. Edmund's College, Cambridge (Jan-June 2004)
- Visiting Scientist (10% appointment), AMOLF, Amsterdam (2004-2009)
- Institut für Physikalische Chemie, Universität Feiburg, Germany, July 2006
- Visiting Professor, École Normale Supérieure, Paris, April 2008

- ESPCI, Paris Saint-Gobain Chair, February 2012 (salaried)
- Universität Konstanz, University Senior Research Fellow, May 2012 (salaried)

Journal editorial work

- Associate Editor, *Science Advances*, new AAAS journal launched in autumn 2014, one of 40 associate editors worldwide, responsible for soft matter
- Editor, *Advances in Physics X*, new Taylor and Francis journal to be launched in 2015, one of 20 commissioning editors worldwide, responsible for commissioning and processing articles in my areas

Other activities

- Consultant, Unilever Research (1998-2001)
- (Founding) Chairman, Complex Fluids Group, the Institute of Physics (1999-2005)
- Member, Liquids and Complex Fluids Board, *J. Phys.: Condens. Matter* (2000-2006)
- *J. Statistical Mechanics: Theory and Experiments* (e-journal), editorial board (2004-).
- Director, NATO Advanced Science Institute (ASI) ‘Soft Condensed Matter Physics in Molecular and Cell Biology’ (Edinburgh, March-April 2004)
- Danish Council for Independent Research, International Review Panel for Physics & Astronomy (2011-2014)
- Co-chair (with Prof Eric Furst, Delaware) of the 2018 Gordon Research Conference on Colloidal, Macromolecular and Polyelectrolyte Solutions (elected by delegates to the 2014 conference)

Postgraduate supervision

1 MSc and 27 PhD completed, 6 PhD in progress

Invited Lectures

Up to 2004: 33 invitations, including 2 summer schools & 3 Gordon Conferences

Since 2005:

([A] = talk on active matter, [AA] = conference/session devoted to active matter)

(34) Templeton Symposium, *Water of Life: Counterfactual Chemistry and Fine-Tuning in Biochemistry*, Varenna, Italy, 29-30 April 2005.

(35) *Physics 2005*, Warwick University, Coventry, UK, 10-13 April 2005, Biophotonics symposium.

(36) Santa Fe Summer School in Complexity, Beijing, China, 25-29 July 2005 (4 × 1.5 hour lectures).

(37) American Chemical Society, *National Meeting*, Washington DC, USA, August 28 - Sept. 1, 2005.

(38) *2nd International Workshop on Dynamics in Viscous Liquids*, Mainz, Germany, 9-12 April, 2006.

(39) 21st century COE and SEIKEN (No. 46) *International Workshop on Recent Advances in Soft Matter Physics*, Tokyo, Japan, 21-23 August, 2006.

(40) CECAM Workshop *Patchy Colloids, Proteins and network forming liquids: Analogies and new insights from computer simulations*, Lyon, France, 26-28 June, 2006.

(41) *Dynamics of Complex Fluids: 10 years on*, Isaac Newton Institute, Cambridge, October 2006.

(42) American Chemical Society *81st Surface Science Symposium*, University of Delaware, 24-27 June 2007. [Symposium keynote]

- (43) Meeting in Honour of Jean-Pierre Hansen, Trinity College Cambridge, 23-25 July 2007.
- (44) Association of Science Education, Annual Conference, John Lewis lecture on physics education, 3-5 January 2008, Liverpool. [Main conference lecture on physics education]
- (45) Deutsche Physikalische Gesellschaft, Spring Meeting 2008, Berlin.
- (46) Nanotech 2008, Boston, USA, 1-5 June 2008.
- (47) Joint EU-IFPRI (International Fine Particle Research Institute) Workshop on Colloidal Gels, 14 June 2008, Crete, Greece. [3-hour review lecture]
- (48) *Unifying Concepts in Glass Physics IV*, Kyoto, Japan, 25-28 November 2008.
- (49) British Society of Rheology, Winter Meeting, Leeds, 15-16 December 2008.
- (50) MESOSOFT, Juelich, 17-21 2009.
- (51) Royal Microscopical Society and Society of Chemical Industries, *Capturing Colloids*, Manchester, 24-25 March 2009.
- (52) [A] Durham University, *Rochester Lecture*, 5 May 2009. [One of the university's main annual lectures]
- (53) *6th International Discussion Meeting on Relaxations in Complex Systems*, Rome, 30/8-5/9, 2009.
- (54) Institute of Mathematics and its Applications (IMA), University of Minnesota, *Flowing Complex Fluids: Rheological measurements and constitutive modeling*, 14-18 September 2009.
- (55) Institute of Physics, Complex Fluids Group, *Colloids in External Fields*, London, 2 September 2009.
- (56) [A] Gordon Research Conference, *Colloidal, Macromolecular & Polyelectrolyte Solutions*, Ventura, California, 21-26 February 2010.
- (57) École de Physique des Houches, *Fundamental Physics of Amorphous Solids: Mechanical Properties and Plasticity*, 14-19 March 2010.
- (58) 11th International Conference on Ceramic Processing Science, Zurich, 29 Aug - 1 Sept 2010.
- (59) [A] SFB TR6 Summer School, *Physics of colloidal suspensions and granular media*, Institut d'Études Scientifiques de Cargèse, 27 September -9 October 2010.
- (60) [A] 10th Dutch Soft Matter Day, Utrecht, 26 May 2011.
- (61) [A] 2011 Soft Matter Physics Gordon Conference, *Soft Matter Far from Equilibrium*, Colby-Sawyer College, USA, 14-19 August 2011.
- (62) [AA] 8th Liquid Matter Conference, Vienna, 6-10 Sept. 2011. ['Biofluids & Active Matter' Keynote]
- (63) *Phase transition dynamics in soft matter*, Kyoto, 20-22 February 2012.
- (64) [A] *Colloidal Dispersions in External Fields III*, Bonn, 19-22 March 2012.
- (65) [AA] Enrico Fermi Summer School, *Physics of Complex Colloids*, Varenna, Italy, 3-13 July 2012. [3× 45 minute lectures on active colloids]
- (66) [A] *13th Journées de la matiere condensee (JMC13)*, Montpellier, France, 27-31 August 2012.
- (66) [A] *Jülich Soft Matter Days*, 13-16 November 2012, Bad Honef, Germany.
- (68) *Macromolecules in constrained environments*, Les Houches, France, 24-29 March, 2013. [Plenary]
- (69) [A] More Scientific Exchange with COMPLOIDS symposium, Philadelphia, USA, 17-19 April 2013.
- (70) [AA] Ringberg Symposium 2013, *Active particles and micro-swimmers*, Schloss Ringberg, Germany, 2-11 July 2013.
- (71) [AA] *Active Fluids: Bridging Complex Fluids and Biofluids*, Aspen Center for Physics, USA, 27 January - 1 February 2014.

- (71) [A] Gordon Research Conference, *Colloidal, Macromolecular & Polyelectrolyte Solutions*, Ventura, California, 16-21 February 2014. [Discussion leader]
- (72) [A] *Soft Matter at Interfaces*, Schloss Ringberg, Germany, 30 April to 3 May 2014.
- (73) [A] EU SoftComp Network Annual Meeting, Crete, 27-30 May 2014. [Plenary]
- (74) [AA] Summer School on Active Systems, Korean Institute of Advanced Studies, Guangju, Korea, 29 July to 4 August 2014. [3 × one-hour lectures]
- (75) [A] European Colloid and Interface Society (ECIS) 2014 Conference, Cyprus, 8-12 Sept. 2014. [Plenary]

Research grants

Below £500k: £2.34 million in total

Above £500k (completed):

2000-2004, SHEFC (Scottish Higher Education Funding Council), £1,873,000
(Joint with Dept. of Chemistry and Institute of Cell & Molecular Biology)
Collaborative Optical Spectroscopy, Micromanipulation and Imaging Centre
P N Pusey, W C K Poon et al.

2003-2007, EPSRC, £1.9 million
Edinburgh Soft Matter and Statistical Mechanics Programme Grant
M E Cates, W C K Poon et al.

2004-2007, Wellcome Trust, £793,196
(Joint with Schools of Chemistry & Engineering)
Biology on Smart Silicon (BOSS): active chips for post-genomic applications
W C K Poon, S L Flitsch, A J Walton and A R Mount

2007-2011, EPSRC, £3.7 million
Edinburgh Soft Matter and Statistical Mechanics Programme Grant
M E Cates, W C K Poon et al.

2007-2012, EPSRC (Senior Research Fellowship), £1.1 million
The non-linear physics of driven colloids and bacteria
W C K Poon

2011-2014, European Union Initial Training Network ‘COMPLOIDS’ (Physics of Complex Colloids),
€673,634 (Edinburgh component)
P S Clegg, W C K Poon and M E Cates

Above £500k (ongoing):

2011-2016, EPSRC, £4.9M
Design Principles for New Soft Materials Programme Grant
M E Cates, W C K Poon et al.

2013-2018, Royal Society Wolfson Merit Award, £75k
The Physics of Bacteria-Soft Matter Mixtures
W C K Poon

2014-2018, European Research Council (ERC) Advanced Grant, €2.5M
Physics of Active Particles
W C K Poon

Current industrial contracts: > £1M (with Mars, Johnson Matthey, International Fine Particles Research Institute being the major funders)