

## **Fluctuations and criticality (dedicated to Reinhard Folk on his 60th birthday)**

It is our pleasure and honour to present a collection of papers dedicated to Reinhard Folk on the occasion of his 60th birthday. With this Festschrift, colleagues and friends of the jubilee pay tribute to his long lasting and fruitful work in the field of condensed matter physics. His research includes ferroelectric and ferromagnetic phase transitions in regular and disordered systems, neural networks, superconductivity, critical dynamics – this list can be continued. Those, who work in the above mentioned fields certainly know and often use results obtained by R.F. which are currently turning into scientific Folk-lore. However, those who know him personally, recognizing his important contribution to physics, enjoy marvelous features of his extraordinary personality. Openness, readiness for discussion, erudition, interest in people and concern in their problems, sense of humour – that's what makes communication with him so desirable and pleasant. Moreover, his vivid interest in science on a larger scale and a deep concern in its future lead R.F. to activities in science organizations in Austria and the European Union, to his personal participation in different projects aiming at strengthening collaboration with Central and Eastern European countries. His work in this respect is widely recognized and acknowledged by the scientific community.

Dear Reinhard, may your work in future lead you to new discoveries and solutions of puzzles put to us almost on every step of research, may it give you satisfaction of the achieved results, and may we, your friends, enjoy for many more years the wonderful intellectual atmosphere created by your work and your spirit.

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Linz-Lviv-Freiburg, 2005



- 1945, April 29** Born in Neuendettelsau, Germany
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- 1973** Assistant at the Institute of Theoretical Physics, University of Linz
- 1982** Habilitation in theoretical physics
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- 1982–1983** Assistant at the Physics Department of the Technical University München, Germany
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