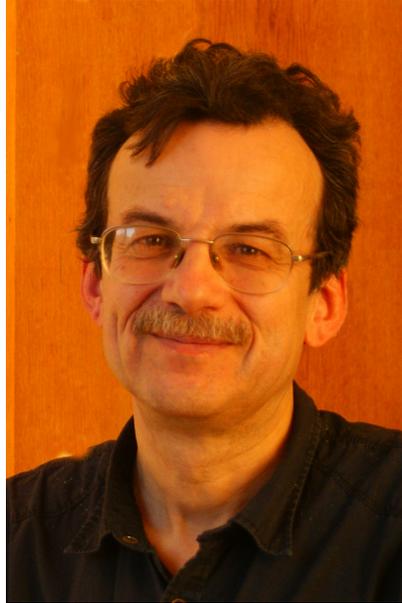


Foreword



60th birthday of Yuriy Holovatch

On June 16th 2017, Dr. Sci., Professor Yuriy Holovatch, Head of the Laboratory for Statistical Physics of Complex Systems, Corresponding Member of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, full member of the Shevchenko Scientific Society, member of the Editorial Board of “Condensed Matter Physics”, celebrates his 60th birthday.

Yuriy Holovatch was born in Lviv, on 16 June, 1957. After his graduation from Ivan Franko State University of Lviv (1979), he continued his studies as a Ph. D. student at the Institute for Theoretical Physics of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine. Under the supervision of Prof. I. Yukhnovskii and Prof. I. Vakarchuk, he defended his dissertation in 1984 at the Bogolyubov Institute for Theoretical Physics of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine in Kyiv.

Having finished his postgraduate studies, he worked at the Lviv department of the Institute for Theoretical Physics of the Academy of Sciences of the UkrSSR, now known as the Institute for Condensed Matter Physics of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine.

His intense and thorough work on various physical problems has earned him high esteem among fellow scientists. He further pursued work as an invited professor at Ivan Franko National University of Lviv.

Yuriy Holovatch’s excellent presentations at international conferences to which he was invited, brought him additional recognition and collaborations at several key institutions. He has worked as an invited Professor at the Johannes Kepler Universität Linz, Austria, at the Université Henri Poincaré in Nancy, France, the Ukrainian Catholic University, Lviv and at the Applied Mathematics Research Centre, Coventry.

In 2010 Yuriy Holovatch established the Laboratory for Statistical Physics of Complex Systems in Lviv which he continues to head. This Laboratory fruitfully collaborates with a number of leading scientific centres located in France, Germany, Austria, Poland, Spain and the UK and currently he has common projects on different subjects with many prominent scientists from all over the world.

Yuriy Holovatch’s original scientific interest concerned the field of condensed matter physics where he acquired deep knowledge and high skills in research, developing appropriate analytical tools to solve

challenging, complicated problems. His passion in exploring physical and non-physical phenomena made it possible to transfer these ideas from condensed matter physics to other related fields. It turned out that the application of well-established methods of condensed matter physics was very constructive in opening new and less explored fields of study in different areas, ranging from macromolecular physics, phase transitions and critical phenomena to exotic problems of statistical physics, including non-physical phenomena and history of science. One of the main objectives in Yuriy Holovatch's research is to create a qualitative understanding and accurate further quantitative descriptions of criticality and scaling in various complex systems. His particular approach to the problems in this context is not restricted to analytical tools. With equal success and in a very efficient way he applies numerical and empirical methods. A large volume of important and highly cited publications in prestigious journals give proof of the quality of his work. Further, he is a member of the Editorial Board of the journal *Condensed Matter Physics*, founded in 1993 by the Institute for Condensed Matter Physics of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine.

In addition to his broad scientific activities, Yuriy Holovatch is all too happy to share his profound knowledge in teaching the next generation, while not only taking on scientific methods, but also his meticulous and accurate style of research. Numerous students, who are at the moment successfully working as physicists at different institutions and in various countries, started their carriers under his supervision.

Being an openminded personality, Yuriy Holovatch organizes a number of activities, such as the "Ising Lectures", a yearly, and very popular, event with international participation which takes place in Lviv and usually finishes with a common hiking tour through the Carpathians. This way people from all over the world get a chance to experience and enjoy Ukrainian hospitality and many of them come here again.

Yuriy is known and appreciated by all for his warm and winning demeanour, as well as for his passionate spirit and contagious sense of humour.

My own first encounter with Yuriy was at the Dubna conference 1991 where I had travelled together with my wife. Yuriy impressed us not only by his presentation but even more by his charming, polyglot character, his direct and friendly approach to other people. Since those times we have kept regular exchanges either in Lviv, Dusseldorf, Freiburg, Linz, Nancy or Coventry. With similar ideas we are always happy to meet each other whenever and wherever possible. He has stuck with my family and me for more than 25 years now, and it is simply impossible for us to imagine life without him. His kindness and ability to get through tough times have become irreplaceable to us, especially to me. I am incredibly glad and honoured to count someone as kind-hearted and driven as Yuriy my friend and I sincerely look forward to the years to come, in which our friendship will be as supportive and close as it has been these past years.

On the occasion of his upcoming 60th birthday the Editorial Board and his many friends wish Yuriy all the best for many years.

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