Marc Gabay Biography

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Marc Gabay was born in 1951 in Paris, France, son of André Gabay, a plastic and rubber products merchant, and Lidya Eskenazi, both of Turkish origin.

Gabay attended École normale de St-Cloud. He obtained a diplôme d'études approfondies (DEA, 1974) at Université Paris-Sud, featuring a research experience with Étienne Guyon in the Laboratoire de Physique des Solides (LPS), and subsequently passed agrégation (1975). Staying at LPS, he wrote a thèse de 3e cycle (1977) entitled "Fluctuations de spin dans des systèmes presque magnétiques pour des dimensions inférieures ou égales à trois," under the supervision of Marie-Thérèse Béal-Monod, and a thèse d'état (1981) entitled "Étude de la thermodynamique des verres de spin dans le cadre du champ moyen et de phénomènes critiques dans les cristaux liquides et les polymères," under the inital supervision of André Blandin and then of Elisabeth Dubois-Violette. After a postdoc at UC Berkeley in the group of Leo Falicov (1982-1983), he returned to LPS as maître de conférence, and was later granted a professorship (1994). He served as vice-chair of LPS from 2004 to 2011.

Gabay was introduced to spin glasses by Blandin, during his graduate studies. Along with Thomas Garel and Henri Orland, both fellow graduate students, they worked on developing replica symmetry breaking schemes in parallel to Parisi's. Gabay then also collaborated closely with Cirano De Dominicis on spin glass dynamics and with Gérard Toulouse on vector spin glasses. He subsequently mostly worked on strongly correlated systems.

Gabay was membre junior (1991-1996) and then senior (2011-2016) of the Institut Universitaire de France. He was also granted a sabbatical fellowship from Japanese Society for the Promotion of Science (2010).